

sengers. Many plants, both native and foreign, may be seen in blossom in the City, which form no criterion of what will stand the air of the City: for, in the spring, innumerable plants in pots and boxes are introduced from the country, and they blossom the first season from the vigour they have acquired in a purer air; but few of them will blossom a second time, unless they be taken back to the country to be re-invigorated. A number of roots are likewise planted in the ground, which nourish for the first season; although but few of them will blossom the second, and still fewer the third.

The following plants may be found in the interior of Finsbury Circus:—*Blue-bottle, Campariclas Carnations, Comfrey, Cow-slip, Crocus, Crown Imperial, Day Lily, Daisy, Eupatoria, Feverfew, French Willow, Hollyhock, Horse-radish, Hyacinth, Iris, Lily of the Valley, London-Pride, Mint, Monks-hood, Orange Lily, Parsley Pinks, Primrose, Ranunculus, Rhubarb, Solomon's Seal, Tulips, and Wall-flowers.* Most of these may be found in the Temple-gardens, where also may be seen—*Bay Laurel, Daphne Mezereon, Rhododendron*, very splendid, and the *Mirabilis Peruviana*, or *Marvel of Peru*. Ivy in a very healthy state, and a most magnificent *Acanth*, growing against the wall, may also be seen in the Temple-gardens; but from their great extent and constant exposure to the Thames, these gardens are hardly a criterion of what will thrive in the centre of a great city.—*Potatoes* will grow in any cellar where they may happen to be left, and some amateurs manage to grow new potatoes to decorate their tables and gratify the vanity of their wives at Christmas and New Year's Day.

---

HAVING given account of the vegetable productions of the City of London, Dr. Mitchell concluded his lectures by an investigation of the causes which totally prevent the growth of many plants and enfeeble that of all others. Among the most obvious of these, he classed the closeness of the air. "There are philosophers," said he, "who, in the affectation of their own wisdom will say, that this phrase, 'the closeness of the air,' has no meaning. But in this instance, I take my stand with the multitude, and assert that the phrase is correct, and goes a great way towards the explanation of the phenomenon. The idea of close air is not more difficult to conceive than that of stagnant water, and as stagnant water may imbibe many impurities from which running water is kept free, so may the confined air of a great city lose part of its oxygen, and receive more than its natural portion of carbon, and also become mixed up with various effluvia, from half a million of chimneys, from the breathing of human beings and inferior animals, and from the decomposition of masses of animal, and vegetable substances. But the argument of these philosophers is, that on analyzing the air taken from the centre of a city, they are not able to perceive any difference between it and the air taken from the country. The only just inference from this, is, that the art of analyzing is yet in a state of great imperfection, and that the human lungs are in many cases, a much more delicate test, than any yet invented by the chemists. Many persons who find no uneasiness in breathing in the country,