

Mr. Townsend corroborated what had been said, saying that with proper soil any one might grow the Azalea, but without that few could succeed, giving an instance of his experience with some plants potted in such soil as he could obtain about Toronto, and which he was only able to keep alive until he had good peat imported.

Mr. Tullman recommended a small mixture of rich loam, as he thought peat of itself too poor to produce good plants.

#### BEST MODE OF FORCING THE STRAWBERRY.

Mr. Young opened the subject by stating the best method of obtaining good plants, which ought to be chosen from the early runners and transplanted into a nursery bed, where they may be kept clean, the young runners removed as they appear, and every encouragement given to induce them to root freely. By the end of August they may be potted in a rich loamy soil, and allowed the full influence of the atmosphere up to the approach of severe weather. When brought into the forcing house, the temperature ought not to exceed forty degrees, but may gradually increase to fifty or fifty-five degrees by the time they come into bloom, at which period they must have all the air and light that the weather will allow. They must also have plenty of water. Manure water will do much to produce large fruit, but if used too freely the flavour may be inferior. He would recommend Peon's Seedling as a good variety for forcing.

Mr. Vair thought that the British Queen could also be found a good variety for forcing, and spoke of the importance of light and air, without which it would be difficult to get the fruit to set well.

Mr. Laughton recommended Wilson's Albion as a very prolific variety, stating that he had been successful in obtaining an average crop from it where the pots were plunged in the border of a grapeery, and where but little extra care was bestowed upon them.

There was some farther discussion, principally conversational, in which all agreed that forcing the Strawberry were deferred until about the first of March it would be attended with more success, as from that time more heat and air can be admitted than is practicable in an earlier season.

Mr. Vair proposed as one of the subjects for discussion at next meeting the cultivation of Camellia, which was agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Young, it was agreed that the cultivation of the Mushroom be also discussed.

After which the meeting adjourned until next monthly meeting, the third Monday of February.

#### HORTICULTURAL NOTES,

made during a Tour in the British Islands and France, during the Summer of 1862.

Continued from page 27.

Leaving Sydenham and London with all their relations, I proceeded to Sheffield intending to

visit Chatsworth, the magnificent seat of the Duke of Devonshire. The weather was delightfully fine; a pleasant ride of about twelve miles over the Moors of Derbyshire brings you to the park gates of the noble domain. Passing onwards through the magnificent park of ten or eleven miles in circumference, studded over with fine old specimens of the English oak, chestnut, and other trees, crossing on the way the fine three-arched bridge which spans the Derwent, beneath, from this point the road rapidly ascends to some distance, the views from thence are very fine. The expanded water with its crystal surface, the fine grounds clothed with a verdure of the most beautiful green, and covered with groups of deer and cattle, gave a peculiar charm to the scene. The house and gardens are open to the public, free of charge; you wait at the gate for a short time until a party is formed, who conduct you through the principal rooms and fine picture galleries, and landed in the flower garden, another guide conducts you through that charming department and the large Conservatory. The grounds and flower beds are kept in fine order and indicate much taste and skill both in design and execution. Passing onwards through immense masses of artificial and highly picturesque rocks, and fountains sending out their silvery spray, sparkling like brilliants in the sun beams, the noble conservatory 277 feet long, 123 ft. wide and 67 feet high is reached. It is a truly magnificent structure, the immense span and ridge and furrow of the exterior producing the most pleasing effect. The interior of the house is magnificent in the highest degree; the collection of plants can hardly be surpassed, and the broad carriage drive in the centre, the fine specimens of *Cavendish musas*, fruiting freely; many of the large *Pelms* reaching to the top of the house. Ascending the stone stair case covered with Ferns and mosses, you pass round the gallery, where a fine view of the plants is obtained, such as one will not readily forget. The kitchen garden is situated some distance from the house of about twelve acres in extent. It contains extensive ranges of forcing houses, also detached houses for the cultivation of particular varieties. Mr. Stewart, the head gardener, was very obliging and showed me through all the houses.

There are three ranges of vintages 246 feet each, in some of the houses there were fine crops of beautifully colored grapes; and a large range of peach houses bearing good crops of *Royal George Kensington* and other approved varieties. Fine Apples are also grown here in great quantities; I saw some very fine ripe fruit. Orchidaceous plants are grown to great perfection in span-roofed houses of considerable length. The house where the *victoria regia* is grown is a beautiful structure, 63 feet in length, 48 feet wide, the roof being on the ridge and furrow principle, in the centre is the large tank, 34 feet in diameter, in which the *Victoria Lily* was producing its enormous leaves and flowers in great