

seems still almost incredible that a body of the above given smallness can produce an egg of even this size. This owl, now in my collection, measures mounted, with the neck somewhat shortened, 25 inches in length.

### CURIOUS NATURAL FREAK.

In the garden of Mr. Cowley on View street, in this city, is to be seen a laburnum tree producing three distinct varieties of flowers, viz:—yellow and pink laburnum flowers and mauve-colored spikes of broom-like flowers. Mr. Cowley made the following statements regarding the tree: About eighteen years ago he bought the plant from the late Mr. Henry Mitchell as a pink laburnum a sport from the ordinary yellow laburnum. It proved true to its name, and produced pink flowers for a number of years. The tree grew quite large, and then Mr. Cowley cut it back when, to his astonishment, it produced a thick broom-like growth, resembling bunches of mistletoe, which produced spikes of rose or mauve-colored flowers, resembling broom, different in every respect from the original laburnum blossoms. Two years ago the tree showed a disposition to hark back to its original form, as it produced a spike of yellow flowers; last year more appeared, and at the present time the tree presents the curious appearance of producing pink and yellow laburnum flowers, and spikes of the broom flowers described.

Mr. C. N. Young, of Duncans, on hearing of the curious freak, wrote as follows:—"I have known a similar case. On the lawn of the rectory at Quainton, near Aylesbury, a large laburnum tree, forked at eight feet from the ground, one half bore yellow, the other pink flowers; while from the fork grew a bunch of citisus bearing purple flowers.

"The late Professor Lindley, then editor of the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, expressed it as his opinion that the original tree was produced by crossing the yellow laburnum with the purple citisus, and that the tree had combined the peculiarities of both parents and offspring."

I send specimens of the flowers for inspection by the curious.

J. R. ANDERSON.

Victoria, B. C.,

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