

and excite some degree of admiration. There is nothing else to be seen here: and, after taking a turn in the forest, gradually ascending the hill, we again return to the ledge, and a fresh extent of ground is before us. We are more fortunate this time. There, a little below us, and a good way in the forest, is a Musk Deer standing under a birch tree. It is a long shot—for you must not forget that we are using a rifle of twenty years ago—and a dram and a half of powder will not drive even a light bullet to any great distance point-blank. You sit down, and while getting into a favourable position, try to decide how much it is under or over two hundred yards. I should think about two hundred, but a rifle carries a little farther in the rarified atmosphere here than it does in the level of London or Birmingham, so you had better put up the sight for two hundred yards with a slight incline from the perpendicular. You have a rest over a big stone, and as steady a shot as could be taken at a target at Wimbledon. These long shots in such a wee little animal are only occasionally successful, and if you please we will miss this one, as most probably at that period either you or I should have done, doing our best. The bullet must have gone very near it, but we did not see it strike, and the Musk Deer evidently wonders what is up. It looks about, and then makes a few bounds up the hill, thus coming a few paces nearer to us, and we can just hear its hiss. You re-load, and before taking another quiet pot, ask me to notice where the ball strikes. Another miss, and we see the bullet has gone over and struck beyond the mark. The Musk Deer is sure now all is not right, and makes a few more bounds and looks round in all directions. So much above, on the ledge of rock, there is not much fear of its seeing us, and if it does it won't make much difference, and you are soon re-loaded. Depressing the sight a little more you take another careful shot, and this time the Musk Deer rolls over.

(To be continued.)

Lucyfield, February, 1869.

Miscellaneous.

BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH.

The Botanical Society of Edinburgh has been for thirty-three years the most active institution of the kind in the world. Its operations extend to all countries, and its annual volumes of published transactions form a general receptacle for the investigations of botanical travellers, and especially of botanists residing in the British Colonies and other countries holding commercial relations with Britain. The Society being desirous of encouraging such contributions, has appointed Secretaries in those Colonies which possess active working botanists. Professor Lawson, Dalhousie College, Halifax, has been requested to act as Secretary for the Dominion, and will be ready to furnish information to enquirers respecting the constitution and operations of the Botanical Society.

THE ZIRCONIA LIGHT.—The brilliant oxy-calcium, or Lime Ball Light, has for many years afforded some of the most striking experiments in Natural Philosophy. It is formed by exposing a disc of lime to the flame of a mixture of oxygen and hydrogen, and a most intense illumination is produced. It is now found that Zirconia far transcends Lime in this application. Of all earthy oxides, zirconia is the only one that remains permanently unaltered in an oxy-hydrogen flame. The inventors claim that Zirconia is at once the most infusible, the most unalterable, and the most luminous of all the chemical substances at present known, when exposed to the action of a hydrogen or hydro-carbon flame.

SMALL TALK--FLYING STRAWS.

Prince Edward Island Oats—these renowned oats—are being advertised for seed in Philadelphia at \$2.50 per bushel. New Brunswick oats, four pounds weight for a dollar. Cannot our Nova Scotian farmer profit any by the oat fever?—The Pink Eye Rusty Coat is found to be the best Potato for withstanding disease in Nova Scotia.—To make a country ugly, and cold, and cheerless, and barren, odious to look upon and miserable to live in,—cut down all the trees around the dwellings and by the waysides and fields.—To remove old putty from the sashes of frames, &c., apply a red hot iron, after which the most obdurate old putty may be easily cut off.—Horace Greely wrote: "Virtue is its own reward," and his printer set it up—"Washing with soap is absurd." The errors in our Yarmouth correspondent's paper on Strawberries were not quite so bad as that, and probably our printer was no more to blame than Mr. Greeley's.—There is a new Grape Disease in France, caused not by a fungus, but by an aphide, which forms yellow patches on the root.—In the Colonial Market the other day, we saw a fine porker from the country (consigned to the Messrs. Northup) which weighed 374 lbs.—The Early Rose Potato is best adapted for the South.—Grape Vines should always be grown on dry raised borders, especially in a cool wet country.—The "celebrated" Norway Oats have proved a failure in Pennsylvania.—Professor Koch, of Berlin, has ascertained that the almond is the parent of the peach,—which we doubt.—Alsike Clover will stand more hard freezing than any other sort; Mr. Saunders has made an importation of seed of this variety.—Great efforts are being made to encourage northern farmers to settle down on the old deserted farms of Virginia.—Weevil may be destroyed in seed wheat by mixing with slacked lime and leaving for a day or two.—The Editor of the *Herald of Health* has discovered that a cow or large pig sleeping under a fruit tree will protect the blossoms from spring frosts, and suggests that the small amount of heat required might be obtained more conveniently by burning kerosene lamps or lanterns in the trees on frosty nights; we do not question but that a very slight frost might thus be frightened off, and besides, the illumination of our orchards would have a nice scenic effect, but would it not be better to have heaps of prunings and rubbish on the north

side of the orchard, ready to fire when a frosty night comes on in blossoming time; this plan is adopted in Canada.—The first crop of Alsike Clover should be cut for seed; the aftermath yields no seed.—At the end of last month (January) beans were coming through the ground, at Colchester in England.—A new "literary combination" has been effected in Boston, under the title of "Tilton's Journal of Horticulture."—To have pots of Mignonette in flower in winter, sow in June or July, and stop back the shoots till flowers are wanted.—*Onoclea sensibilis* and *Osmunda Claytoniana*, two of the hardiest and commonest ferns of our Nova Scotian swamps, were in the prize sets at the Royal Horticultural Exhibition at Leicester; if the Leicestersians can bear us in long wool ram, we can beat them in native ferns, but then our ferns are left to circinate unseen and waste their sweetness on the desert air.—On 18th April last, Mr. Deitz planted one pound of Early Rose Potatoes, cut in single eyes, and on the 2nd July dug sixty pound; these he again cut in single eyes, dusted with plaster, and again planted, and dug in the fall three thousand pounds of beautiful potatoes: this was in Pennsylvania.—In Ohio they are advocating Evergreen Belts for orchards: how much more useful they would be with us.—Their disaffection in the Dartmouth Agricultural Society.—The most experienced growers say that the best time for planting strawberries is the spring.—The fine root-fibres of trees are annual, and like the leaves die every year; do not cut them off in summer.—The Ohio Society commend the Harrison, Pink Eye Rusty Coat, Early Rose, and White Peach Blow Potatoes; but the Early Goodrich, owing to the late season, has not been so good as heretofore.—The Maharajah of Jeypore lately offered a prize of \$125 to the Botanical Class of the Edinburgh University; a Class prize of \$125 is as rare as a Maharajah in Nova Scotia.—The Czar of Russia has projected a great Horticultural exhibition to come off at Moscow, in May, 1869.—Mr. Mehan has discovered that the Mayflower of Nova Scotia is not hermaphrodite as was supposed, but practically dioecious; this is the first instance of dioecism in true Ericaceae, and merits careful investigation,—which we shall give it.—Real Sculling Quince is reported as a splendid fruit, larger than the apple or orange Quince, quality good, the tree a strong grower with large dark foliage.—Grimes' Golden Pippin Apple is highly spoken of at Philadelphia.—Dry weather makes plenty of honey, and moist weather plenty of swarms.—The *Journal of Horticulture* says that the Isabella Pear has fruited at Brooklyn, and that it ripens about the middle of October, "continuing about four weeks in eating,"—we think that a pear that will continue four weeks in eating will be a profitable novelty for housekeepers.—When horses are hide bound, give them mashes and a mild dose of physic.—The relaying of the Bedford Railway Bridge over the Sackville River, is now completed, and as there is no longer a footpath, pedestrians are cautioned against attempting to cross it.—The Medical Faculty of Dalhousie College will commence their second session on the 2d of May.—Major Norton, of Pictou, some time ago discovered, in a coal mine, a Toad without a mouth. A farming correspondent suggests the propriety, in these hard lay times, of discovering a breed of cattle with the same peculiarity.—The Fenwick Agricultural Society of Noel and