

STRAWBERRIES GRAFTED ON ROSES.—A short time ago there were exhibited in Paris, in a florist's shop on the Boulevard des Italiens, several rose-trees, upon which were grafted a few strawberry plants. This curiosity attracted much attention from the passers-by. The process by which it was effected as follows:—In autumn a few dog-roses of good sorts, on their own roots, are selected and planted in pots; at the same time a well-rooted strawberry is placed with each rose, planted just beneath the stem of the rose. In spring, when the runners push out, two or three of them are tied up to the stem rose. It is well known that the runners of the strawberries soon make their own roots, and in due time these roots are cut away, making the cuts as for a scion, and then they are grafted on the rose stem, "without cutting or rearing the runners from the parent plant in the ground." They should be preserved very carefully, to lead the sap upwards to the scions, and, treated in this way, the strawberries will vegetate upon the rose-tree for some time.

MANURING FRUIT TREES.—[To the Editor.]—Sir,—The Dutch, who are admirable gardeners, had in the Great Exhibition, an instrument called "Earth borer," for manuring fruit trees without digging the ground. A circle of holes is bored round the tree, at 2 feet distance from the tree, and a foot from each other. Taking the tree at a foot diameter at the surface of the soil, the circle will be 5 feet diameter and 15 feet circumference: and if the holes are 3 inches diameter and a foot apart = 15 inches, there will be about 12 holes; more or less according to the diameter of the tree. They are 18 inches deep (where there is enough depth of soil), and slanting towards the centre; and are filled with liquid manure; diluted more or less in dry weather, and stronger as the weather is wetter. For the time of application, Dr. Lindly tells us (*Gardener's Chronicle*, Feb. 21, 1852), "For fruit, the proper time for using liquid manure is when the fruit is beginning to swell, and has acquired, by means of its own green surface, a power of suction capable of opposing that of the leaves. At that time, liquid manure may be applied freely; and continued, from time to time, as long as the fruit is growing. But at the first sign of ripening, or even earlier, it should be wholly withheld." "If liquid manure is applied to a plant when the flowers are growing, the vigour which it communicates to them must also be communicated to the leaves; but when leaves are growing unusually fast, there is sometimes a danger that they may rob the branches of the sap required for the nutrition of the fruit: and if that happens, the latter falls off." "And we all know that when ripening has once begun, even water spoils the quality of fruit, although it augments the size; as is sufficiently shown by the strawberries prepared for the London market by daily irrigation; great additional size is obtained, but it is at the expense of flavour, and any injury which mere water may produce will certainly not to be diminished by water holding ammoni-

cal and saline substances in solution." I am not aware that this information has yet made its way into our orchards, finding no allusion to it in any of our books on orchard management, nor at our agricultural meetings. The time is just coming for putting it to the test, and it remains with the fruit growers to see what profit they can make of it. They need, in these times, all they can get, and this method has the recommendation of requiring little outlay, if any.—J. PRIDEAUX.

PROFITS OF PATENTS.—Perhaps the largest amount of profit obtained under any one patent is that derived from the famous American "Woodworth" planing machine. During the 24 years the patent has been in existence one of the partners has received £426,350, another nearly the same amount, and a third a very large sum. The first named is now in receipt of 1 dollar per 1000 feet, planed in 100 mills, each of which turns out 100,000 feet per day.—*Mining Journal*.

A BIRD TWENTY FEET HIGH.—Not many years ago a sailor presented at the British Museum a huge marrowbone, which he desired to sell, and which he had brought from New Zealand. The officers of that institution not usually dealing in that class of marine stores, referred him to the College of surgeons, where they said he would find a gentleman Professor Owen—who had a remarkable predilection for old bones. Accordingly, the sailor took his treasure to the professor; who, finding it unlike any bone even he had any knowledge of, sent the man away rejoicing with a full pocket—rejoicing himself in the acquisition of a new subject for scientific inquiry. Although he bone had manifestly contained marrow, and was therefore unlike the bones of birds in general, Mr. Owen concluded, from certain structural evidences, that this bone had belonged to a bird and a bird of a species hitherto unknown. Those who have ever experienced the flutter which the clue to any discovery of a scientific character occasions will at once understand the excitement which was felt by the little world of naturalists to whom the professor displayed his new bone. It was immediately figured and lithographed, and copies, with certain instructions for finding other such bones, were sent out to New Zealand, to be distributed wherever Europeans had trod among the ferns of that colony. Years passed. By-and-by a very big box arrived in Lincoln's-inn-fields, London, containing congeners of the sailor's marrow-bone; some of them upwards of a yard long. Profess or Owen set to work, and built up from these bones, not one but five (ultimately 11) distinct species of an extinct animal hitherto utterly unknown to natural history. It must have been unable to fly (hence the marrow, instead of air in the bones) and must have had uncommon pedestrian powers (hence the necessity for marrow). The structure of the beak and