

A short obituary notice will be found elsewhere in this issue.—*Ed.*]

My wife and I spent a delightful afternoon with the Professor at Grafrath, as a preliminary to a future visit on the following Tuesday, as it was our intention to proceed to Ober-Ammergau for Sunday, to see the famous Passion Play, which is held on Sundays and saints' days, during the summer of every tenth year.

Ober-Ammergau is beautifully situated in the Bavarian highlands, adjoining the Austrian Tyrol, and for its own sake is well worth a visit.

Here, as in other parts of Germany, advantage has been taken of natural conditions and environment, as the hillsides afford a splendid opportunity of growing trees as a profitable crop. Land which cannot be tilled economically will very often grow trees of great commercial value and supply material for numerous industries. Mountain slopes afford an excellent opportunity for profitable forestry, of which full advantage has been taken, and nature is everywhere being assisted in Germany to maintain a supply of timber to meet the requirements of the country.

Prof. Mayr's Tree Garden.

The Experimental Garden at Grafrath is 140 acres in extent. It is situated on a terminal moraine, varying, within short distances, from heavy clay to sand and gravel soils and is not, generally speaking, suited for agricultural purposes and consequently has been very rightly turned over to forestry.

The object of the garden is to study the characteristics of indigenous trees and to study at the same time what exotics may be most profitably cultivated in Bavaria. The size of the garden is sufficient to enable large numbers of each species to be grown under natural conditions. The garden is traversed by numerous footpaths which makes

the inspection of the many varieties of trees very easy.

The following has been taken verbatim from the printed report of the Royal Scottish Arboricultural Society's excursion to Bavaria (1909) and has been included to show the importance attached by the Society to experimental gardens on a large scale:—

"In the cultivation of exotic species, mistakes are frequently made which lead to failure and disappointment. A certain amount of knowledge in regard to the cultivation of an exotic may be, and often is, obtained from failures or negative results. This method of investigation, however, savours too much of the old method of trial and error. Such a method of experimenting is slow and costly, and the environmental conditions are so varied that in such cases it is difficult, nay, almost impossible, to determine which factors are beneficial and which injurious. The case is quite different in a properly arranged experimental garden, where experiments can be conducted on scientific principles. Professor Mayr's work has shown that a knowledge of the trees in their native habitat is one of the first essentials in dealing with the introduction or cultivation of exotics. A knowledge of the physiology and geographical distribution of the various species indicates the lines upon which experiments should be conducted, and this can only be done in a properly organized experimental garden.

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The garden was laid out in 1884, so that sufficient time has elapsed to enable some valuable deductions to be drawn. The Douglas fir flourishes in Bavaria, as it does in England, especially the Oregon or light-green variety, which grows much faster than that from Colorado.

The experiments made with the Japanese larch clearly demonstrate the importance of careful scientific investigation. This tree grows re-