FORCING FRUITS AND FLOWERS.

BY JAMES DAVIDSON, MONTREAL.

In submitting this paper, I neither aim at nor claim anything like originality for the general principles therein enunciated—principles patent and practised by every gardener of note around the English metropolis with whom I am acquainted, as well, also, by my long experience in the different departments of horticulture—principles, moreover, explained and enforced by every distinguished writer on botanical or physiological science during the present century, more notably so by the late Professor Lindley, of King's College, London, Eng., whose multifarious researches, as an experimental botanist, have conferred such a boon on the horticultural community at large. His "Theory of Horticulture," in especial, as being more suited to the wants of practical men, should find a place in every gardener's library.

Taking, then, as a type for our present purpose, the forcing of the peach—bearing in mind that the same principles apply equally to all forced productions, whether fruit or flowers—those who would rightly understand the philosophy of peach-forcing must commence at the beginning, and first determine what it is they have to deal with. This can only be accomplished by examining the young flower-buds as they exist in the plant when it makes its first move towards growth. At that period they are collections of tiny scales, placed over a small, spongy centre. By degrees they take on the forms of calyx, corolla, stamens and pistil. They form successively in the order in which they are named—the calyx first, the pistil last. The calyx and corolla are the most simple, grow the quickest and most easily bear to be hastened; the stamens require more time for growth—the pistil most of all. When high temperature night and day, with abundance of moisture and as much light as March yields, are suddenly applied to the peach, it is compelled to grow. The predetermined parts advance and, obedient to the influences which their nature can-