

British Cleanings.

The "Magic Ring" at the International Horticultural Exhibition.

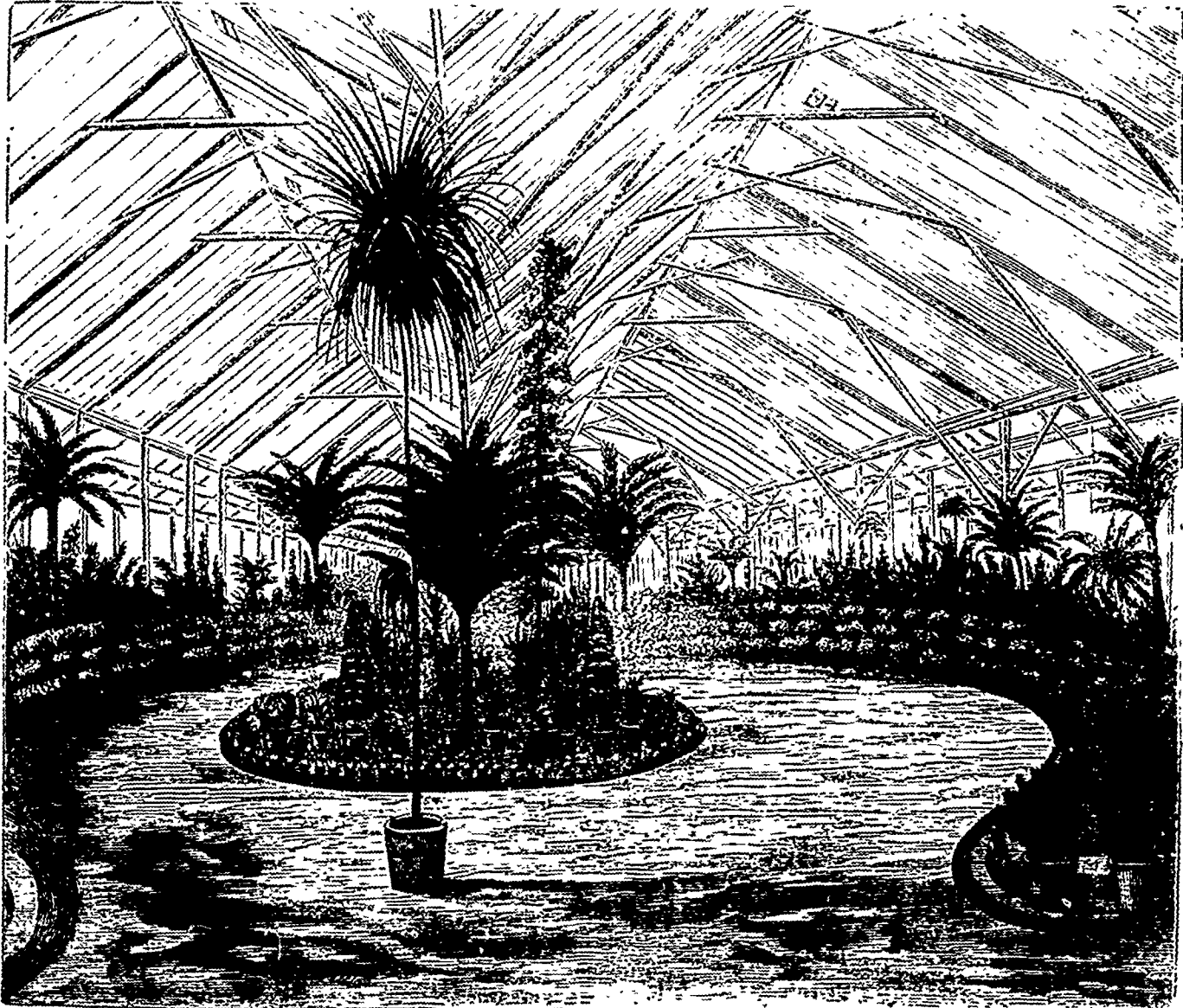
In our issue of July 2nd, we gave some particulars in reference to the great floral exhibition, held at South Kensington, near London, England, from July 22nd to 25th. Herewith we present a beautiful illustration of the centre block and banks of Pelargoniums which graced that magnificent display. I will not only interest and gratify our readers, but may probably supply a suggestive hint toward the arrangement of Horticultural Exhibitions in this Province. With reference to the illustration, we cannot do better than quote the graphic description given of the scene it represents by the *Gardener's Magazine*:—"Now for the 'magic ring.' The centrepiece

and the ground between the pots and tubs covered with small plants of *Dracæa terminalis*, making a rich crimson carpeting. On the outside is a broad silvery band of *Centaurea candidissima*, and a marginal line of *Alyssum saxatile*, making a gold line to finish with. The two ellipses are faced with show pelargoniums all around, and that is the main feature as respects colour in this magic ring. There are in all 131 specimen plants, the average three feet each in diameter, all through, some few batches attaining the largest dimensions ever seen; such a display has never been seen before in this country, and it is so subtle in that no other display divides attention with it, and a thousand or more persons can enjoy it together on the ample gravel space enclosed. The exhibitors of these pelargoniums are Messrs. Turner, Fraser, Dobson, Bailey, Donald, Weir, Shrimpton, and Foreman."

win the leisure and love of mankind. Let us hope that such results may follow; let us hope that some more lasting good may result from all this effort than the mere gratification afforded by a spectacle. But should this last prove to be the only result achieved—should it be agreed that it was a show, and nothing more, well even then, it was worth the effort, worth the cost, worth the approbation of the thousands who came filled with curiosity, and went away filled with wonder."

The Pollution of Rivers—Effects of Sewage on Cattle.

The *Leeds Mercury* states that the River Commission is beginning to inspect the streams of the manufacturing parts of Yorkshire, and that the result of the inspection is anything but satisfactory. The



totally consists of two elliptic blocks enclosing a circle. This is the lowest part of the ground, and is the most finished compartment in the whole exhibition. To say that it glows or burns would be miserable description; all that can be said is that it is as rich in colour as it can possibly be without overtaking the eye, and it stops at just the point of safety, and there is such a grand and tasteful combination of green with the colour in banks of shrubs specimen palms, tree ferns, and modest miscellanies, that at every view the eye is delighted with the freshness and purity of the harmonies. The centre bed though not much more than a dot in the plan measures about 35 feet across, so that the walk round is more than as many yards, and the two ellipses have a span of 150 feet each. The centre bed is covered with great subjects, such as dasyliroids, palms, and tree ferns,

The Exhibition of which the "Magic Ring" formed so interesting and attractive a feature, was in all respects a success, and marks an era in the history of British Horticultural Shows. Henceforth they will be more elaborately got up, and will continue for several days instead of being crowded into a single day. Among the good results predicted to follow the recent great display of plants at London, the *Gardener's Magazine* enumerates the following:—"Flower shows generally will be improved; that will be one good result. No doubt the general public always in need of wholesome recreations will look with more favour on flower shows than mere o'ers. No doubt at all, horticulture will have an increased and increasing throng of followers, and it will, as it should, and as it can, displace many less innocent, less healthy, and less costly pursuits that

entire sewage of Leeds, Huddersfield, and Bradford is emptied into the rivers, and the consequence is that all the cattle grazing on the meadows below the main sewer outlet of Leeds were swept away by the cattle plague. But in addition to the sewage of towns the refuse of tanneries, woollen manufactories, dyeworks, the cinders of steam-engine furnaces, and the carcasses of dogs and other animals, are turned into the rivers. In and near Leeds alone two millions and a half of skins are dressed and tanned, both the fluid and solid refuse of which is sent into the river, by means of the sewers and intersecting streams. With such facts before us we need not wonder that the death-rate of Leeds is the second highest in the kingdom; and with the daily advance of the cholera, these facts assume a much wider significance.