

Line-Inshire Gem is said to be superior to Yorkshire Hero, very prolific and very early.

The Essex Rival. A very superior and hardy sort.—Thomas Eley, Halstead.

Digswell Prize Endive. A curled-leaved sort, holding that happy medium between a coarse weedy kind and varieties so endwarfed and curled as to be of very small size and very readily cut off by slight frosts.—B. S. Williams, Holloway.

FRUITS.

Raspberry Belle de Fontenay. Large, very prolific, and an abundant bearer. It is said to be quite distinct from all others in cultivation.

Malvern Hall Melon. This is a scarlet fleshed melon, said to be a valuable variety, the earliest of English melons to ripen, the freest in setting fruit, deliciously flavoured, of moderate size (weighing 2½ lbs.) remarkably thin skinned and nicely ribbed.—B. S. Williams, Holloway, London.

Pitmaston Duchesse d'Angoulême Pear. This is quite a new English pear, which has been reported upon as very superior. We have already alluded to some samples exhibited at the London Horticultural Society's meeting.—T. Hewitt, Birmingham.

GARDEN FLOWERS.

Muthiola bicornis. This is a summer annual, an evening-scented stock, from the mountains of Greece. It is described as of unrivalled fragrance, "surpassing mignonette," the delicate perfume of a bed of it being perceptible at a distance of 100 yards. It is quite hardy.

Lobelia Snow-flake. A desirable bedding sort, flowers large, perfectly even, of the purest white. The stock comes true from seed.—J. & C. Lee, Hammersmith.

CLEANLINESS AND PURE AIR ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE HEALTH OF FARM ANIMALS.

An article in "The Farmer" of Nov. 1st, (an Edinburgh publication conducted with great ability and taste,) argues strongly in favor of cleanliness and pure air for cattle, on the principle that the same measures which keep human beings in health also effect the same end in the case of cattle. The Edinburgh Medical Committee of Investigation indeed reported, that while "no amount of filth will generate *Rinderpest*, it undoubtedly predisposes animals to take the disease, and tends greatly to intensify the poison, and to help to propagate it."

POULTRY SHOW.—At the Birmingham Poultry Show held in December, the collection embraced two thousand and six pens of the choicest birds in the kingdom. At 4 p. m., on the first day of the show £600 had been taken at the sale office for birds claimed.

BOTANICAL OBITUARY OF 1865.

It is remarkable that during the past year botany and horticulture have lost an unusually large number of distinguished names, among whom are Sir William Hooker, the director of Kew Gardens; Sir Joseph Paxton, the architect of the exhibition building of 1851; Dr. John Lindley, Secretary of the London Horticultural Society; and Lovell Reeve, F.L.S., the famous botanical publisher.

THE COTSWOLD SHEEP.

Nictaux, 15th Jan., 1866.

As the Cotswold Sheep appears very little known in the Province, I enclose you an article on the breed, published in the *Country Gentleman*. It might prove interesting to some of the subscribers if published in the *Journal of Agriculture*.
G. V. INCE.

"The late tests of the Wool growers' Association as to the comparative loss of different wools by thorough cleansing will have its good effect on the public. The Merino wool-growers have through the Agricultural press, by their report of enormous fleeces in the grease, made the impression on the public that the fine wool families were so much superior to the English combing wool breeds in the *quantity* of wool they produced as in the *quality*. This puts all these operations in their proper light before the wool growers of this country, and the introduction of the machinery and new forms of fabrics for want of cotton supply has enhanced the value of all coming wools in England and America, and has placed their commercial value nearly equal, pound for pound, with the ordinary felting or fine wools. The latter fact in connection with the late test must have had a great tendency to increase the flocks of Cotswolds and other combing wool breeds in America in all proper situations, viz: where the pasturage is rich and the soil strong, population most dense, and butcher's meat in most demand. Let the Merinos be consigned to cheap and thin soils and grasses, and to remote localities far away from the great centres of trade and population, where no demand exists for butcher's meat; here let them live and increase during their natural lives, producing wool alone, and they will be found in their appropriate and most profitable sphere.

The Cotswold is a highly improved animal, having in perfection all the high feeding qualities of the best short horn cattle, and will make from a given amount of rich food as much return in butcher's meat as any other animal of any species. They thrive only in small flocks, and with high handling, rich food, and plenty of it. With the sheep family they occupy the same class that the short horn does with cattle—that is, the very best and cheapest machine a farmer can employ to manufacture his grain into manure. I have weighed ram lambs of this breed in August which had been yeanned in March, drawing 140lbs. each, live weight. The heaviest fleeces ever produced by this breed is by yearlings, if well kept."

THE SAHARUNPOOR RAT-TAIL RADISH.—A greatly improved variety of the Rat-tail Radish (*Raphanus caudatus*) has been raised in the Edinburgh Botanic Garden, from seeds received from Mr. Bell, superintendent of the Saharunpoor Garden. The new sort has edible pods three feet long!

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ENGLAND.

At the annual meeting of this society, Mr. Thompson, M. P., reported that the cost of the society's quarterly *Journal* for 1865 might be approximately stated at £1529. Prof Voelcker, the society's chemist, reported that he had made, during the past year, 316 analyses for members, and had lectured on potash deposits and on the quantities of water used for irrigation. He is engaged in the investigation of disinfectants, and in field experiments; also on the chemical changes which take place in grass during hay-making and keeping in the stack. The Education Committee report as follows: the total number of candidates who have entered for the prizes of the society is 119, drawn from 17 counties of England. Of these candidates 82 are under the age of 16, of whom 74 are entered for the general junior examinations, 60 for prizes in pure mathematics, 15 in elementary mechanics, 4 in chemistry, and 1 in botany. There are 27 under the age of 18 who have entered for the general senior examination, and of these 21 are entered for prizes in pure mathematics, 2 in chemistry, 2 in zoology, 1 in botany, and 1 in geology. Those only who have passed the preliminary examination are eligible to obtain a prize in a special subject. Of candidates not exceeding 25 years of age, 13 have entered, of whom 12 compete in chemistry applied to agriculture. It is a circumstance not without its significance that the authorities of the university of Cambridge are going hand in hand with the Royal Agricultural Society in this matter.

BOTANICAL CONGRESS.—M. Alphonse DeCandolle, of Geneva, has been elected Chairman of the Botanical Congress to be held in London next summer.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Literary Communications are to be addressed to Dr. Lawson, Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, Dalhousie College, Halifax. All lists of subscribers and remittances of subscriptions are to be sent to Messrs. A. & W. McKinlay, Publishers, Granville Street, Halifax.

The Journal of Agriculture

—is published monthly by—

A. & W. MACKINLAY,
No. 10, GRANVILLE STREET,
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION:—

Fifty Cents per annum—payable in advance.
A limited number of Advertisements in connection with Agriculture will be inserted on application to the Publishers.