

One of the members has suggested that some gentlemen offer special prizes as a means of enabling the Society to keep up their exhibitions. I hope that the coming year this may be done, giving such subscribers the right to say to what particular branch the money shall be devoted.

I think that the prize list requires a complete revision. In my opinion there has been too much of a uniformity from year to year, and I would suggest that for a time at least, something be dropped and the money applied in offering prizes for something else. I have before me the prize list of the Cincinnati Exhibition for 1883, and while we cannot hope to equal the handsome prizes offered therein, we could, with advantage, I think, model our own prize list in some respects on this one. For instance a prize of \$20 and \$10 is offered for a group of fancy Caladiums, not less than 30; \$15 and \$10 for a group of Begonias, not less than 25; \$30, \$20, and \$10 for not less than 30 tuberous Begonias; \$50, \$25, and \$15 for not less than 50 varieties of geraniums. In cut bloom \$15, \$10, and \$5 is offered for the best oval bouquets, not less than two feet in diameter; \$15, \$10, and \$5 is offered for first, second and third best 10 corsage bouquets, and the same for the same number of party bouquets. The Massachusetts Horticultural Society offer prizes for the best display and best kept cut flowers, filling 150 bottles; also for the best kept and best arranged basket of cut flowers and table designs. There are also other prizes in the above and other lists which might meet with the approval of the members of this Society if brought to their notice. The matter will, of course, rest with the incoming board of directors, but an expression of opinion from this meeting might do no harm. It is noticeable that in many of the American lists only two prizes are given instead of three. One thing is very much wanted, and that is a proper definition of what constitutes an amateur.

The Society is under great obligation to Mr. R. W. Shepherd, jr., and Mr. Chas. Gibb, for the valuable time and great attention which they give to the publication of the annual report. It is got up in a manner to reflect credit on any society, and hitherto, at least, the sole reward they have had for their labours is their love of the work and the knowledge that in many quarters it is highly appreciated. If the Government could only be induced to bear the cost of the mere printing, as was agreed upon at first, it would remove a pretty heavy burden from the Society.

Since the Society was last called together several of the oldest