

previous to their being taken over by the Government as the National Public Botanic Gardens, we find that Dr. Lindley, who signed the report, defines a Botanic Garden as "A Garden of Science and Instruction," which means, I take it, a garden where science, that is knowledge, concerning plants may be accumulated and there applied for educational purposes. In order that these objects may be attained in the most satisfactory manner, there are certain features of the work which must always be borne in mind. The means of gathering together the material to be grown in the garden, by purchase, by exchange, by communication with correspondents at other gardens or who live in different parts of the world, although of great importance in the management of a botanical garden, do not come within the scope of my subject to-day. One of the chief sources of supply however is, of course, by exchange with other Botanical Gardens, of which there are many, both public and private, in all parts of the world where education and culture are cherished. In the first instance Botanic Gardens were merely collections of plants which were deemed useful for their medicinal qualities, later general utility, beauty, variety, or even curiosity were considered, and it is only comparatively lately that the most important development of all, the educational value of these institutions, has been recognized. One thing which should be conspicuously apparent on entering a Botanic Garden is systematic arrangement, not necessarily any particular arrangement, but an arrangement by which something is illustrated. A feature of the utmost importance also, is that every plant should be labelled plainly, both with its scientific and vernacular names. In addition to this any further information should be given which can be put on the label without confusion, such as its native country and date of introduction, for foreign plants, and more definite localities in the case of indigenous species. When a plant is the source of some useful product, and this is not shown by the name, it should be indicated on the label. In short the label should give as much information to a visitor as is possible without loss of clearness. In a scientific garden record books, giving full particulars, must of course, be kept, as to the source, age and condition of every individual plant grown. This is of great value and may be the means of saving much loss by preventing the