

## KEW GARDENS,—LONDON.

We have to acknowledge Sir William Hooker's kindness in transmitting the annual report for the past year of the Royal Gardens at Kew from which it appears that the institution is in a highly efficient state. The number of visitors during the year was 473,307. Mr. Smith, who had been Superintendent for 50 years, has (owing to an affection of the eyes) retired from duty, and his services have been recognized by the Treasury in granting him the highest scale of pension. A Superintendent of the same name has been appointed. In the Garden, many improvements are being introduced in the walks, lawns, and plantations. Many donations are acknowledged from all parts of the world. About 4000 live plants and 4,600 packets of seeds have been distributed. The *Ipecacuanha* is being introduced to Ceylon and India. There are favorable reports of the *Cinchona* plantations in India under Dr. Anderson, and elsewhere. From Ascension encouraging accounts are received of the increased fertility and moisture of the island consequent on the extension of plantations. The Cook oaks sent to South Australia are thriving. One feature of the Garden is worthy of notice. The pleasure grounds are being devoted to the cultivation of a complete named collection of all the trees and shrubs that will stand the climate.—Every colony ought to have such a collection. Among the donations to the Museum we notice cones of *Pinus Peuce* from Messrs. Haage and Schmidt, which has enabled the Director to prove that this rare tree, which in Europe is confined to a single mountain in Turkey, is the same as the Himalayan *P. excelsa*. Dr. Kirk, who accompanied the Livingston expedition, has been arranging his African collections at Kew, and many other botanists have been working there.

## THE ENGLISH SPEEDWELL.

The Speedwell (*Veronica Chamædrys*) is one of the prettiest wild flowers in England. It is not an American plant, but was recently found to be abundant in the grounds of the Prince's Lodge, Bedford Basin, where it had no doubt been originally planted. This is the plant spoken of as the Blewart in the Field Day of a Scottish Naturalists' Club. Various other garden flowers, such as the Columbine and the Black-headed Centaurea have run wild in the grounds, where the Speedwell was found. The Speedwell has been only once before observed on this continent, viz.: at Quebec.

## FORCING EARLY ROSES.

This art consists in bringing the Rose, by degrees, out of its season. We know that a Rose can be potted in January, and made to produce flowers in May; but those who wish to force should know the best way. A Rose, then, for early forcing requires three seasons to be perfect. The first season it should be put into a greenhouse, and from thence into the stove, as early as November or December. It is sure to grow, no matter what sort it is; and let it grow its best, but pluck off the buds if it have any, yet it should not be drawn; this can be managed in two or three ways, but all it requires to prevent drawing is light and air. These will have grown pretty well as large as they can grow, by the time they may be turned out and plunged in the open air. The wood will ripen well in the summer time; and in October, re-pot them into a size larger pots; prune them by taking off all the weak shoots, and all the least valuable of those in each others way; shorten the best wood to two or three eyes, thinning the inner branches all that may be necessary to give air, light, and freedom to the new wood. Take them into the greenhouse, thence, soon, into the stove. Let the bloom buds, as they appear, be plucked off, and the

growth to be perfected again, which will be earlier than the previous season, as they were set growing earlier. Be early in your attendance on them, when they commence growing, so as to remove useless buds, instead of allowing them to form useless branches. When the growth is completed, remove them into a cold frame, to be kept from the spring frosts, but where they can have all the fine weather. In this state they may remain till they can safely be put out in the open air, plunged into the ground, and properly fastened to protect them from wind. In September you may examine the balls of earth, to see if the roots have room; if matted at all, give them another change. Prune the plants well as before; removing altogether such of the present year shoots as are at all weakly, and shortening all the best to two or three eyes. Let them now be taken to the greenhouse, or conservatory, or a graperly, or all in turn, but gradually increase the temperature, till, by the end of October, they may go into the forcing-house, beginning at the temperature the house was they came from, say fifty to fifty-five, and continuing it till they are fairly growing; then increasing it to sixty, and eventually to sixty-five: rubbing off as before all useless shoots, and giving plenty of air, when it can be done without lowering the temperature. At the least appearance of greenity, syringe with water; fumigate at night, gently syringe again in the morning; fumigate gently at night, for too strong a smoke would all but destroy the plants and incipient blooms. In this way you will be clear of the pest without danger of damage, and your reward will be a fine show of blooms on every rose-tree; strong growth, healthy foliage, handsome plants, and all that can be desired.—*G. Glenn, in Scottish Gardener.*

**A COMFORT TO ROSE GROWERS.**—We cultivate the rose for ornament; and nature, as if to farther our designs, places upon the leaves the neat, prim, little caterpillar of the vaporier moth, which is a more delicate, and elegant object than the handsomest rose that ever grew.—*Fitch's Noxious Insects, page 209.*

**SIR JOSEPH PAXTON.**—It is proposed to erect a monument to the late Sir Joseph Paxton.

**ROSE SHOWS IN LONDON.**—The great rose show of the Royal Horticultural Society came off on 1st July, and that of the Royal Botanic, Regent's Park, on 5th July, both of which were very successful.

**WORKMEN'S SHOW OF WINDOW PLANTS.**—A Workman's Show of Window Plants was to come off at Kensington, on 10th July. £50 sterling was offered in prizes.

**MIDGE-PROOF WHEAT.**—Enclosed please find a sample of midge-proof wheat, imported from the State of New York by Messrs. Gooderham & Worts and Mr. H. S. Howland, and now growing on the Meadowvale Farm, belonging to the former gentlemen. There are thousands of midges hovering amongst the straw and trying to work into the grain, but to no purpose. We have examined the field carefully and cannot find a grain injured. Enclosed, also, are two samples from the farm of Wm. Elliott, Esq., adjoining the Meadowvale Farm. One is the midge-proof and is perfectly safe; the other is the Soules wheat, planted one week earlier on the same land, with nothing but the fence between, and it is almost totally destroyed by the midge. In this neighbourhood this is about the result generally. Enclosed is also a sample of flax, taken from a 32-acre field (perhaps the largest flax field in Canada); it measures about three feet long and premises well. There are about 700 acres sown in this locality.—*Gooderham & Worts, in 'Toronto Globe.'*

## Miscellaneous.

## SCIENTIFIC CONVERSAZIONE IN THE HORTICULTURAL GARDENS.

The Institute of Natural Science held a Conversazione in the Horticultural Gardens, on the evening of 6th July. There was a large attendance of members and their friends, including ladies. Through the exertions of the President, J. M. Jones, Esq., F. L. S., Capt. Hanly, Mr. Gossip, Mr. Willis, and other active members, the Hall was tastefully decorated, and many interesting collections of natural history specimens were displayed. The proceedings were opened by an address from the president, in which he set forth in a clear and happy manner the nature and objects of the Institute, and described the more interesting and useful insects inhabiting Nova Scotia. Dr. Gilpin, M.D., followed with an exposition of the natural history of the herring, and an account of the mode of manufacturing the "Dighly Chicken," which was listened to with much interest. Mr. Gossip, the society's indefatigable secretary, took up the subject of Geology, and illustrated some of the leading principles of that science in an able manner, by reference to the geological phenomena of Halifax and other parts of Nova Scotia. The proceedings were closed by Dr. Lawson's address on the periodical phenomena of Plants. But, in addition to the formal addresses there was much interesting talk on matters of natural history, interspersed with ices, strawberries and other refreshments. One of the pleasantest features of the meeting was the reading of a letter addressed to Mr. Downs, by Charles Waterton, a genial and venerable English naturalist, whose death we noticed last month.

## FIELD DAY OF A SCOTTISH NATURALISTS' CLUB.

The Berwickshire Naturalists' Club differs materially in its mode of working from most others of our scientific societies, although its aim is like theirs—the advancement of science. Its members do not assemble in the formal style of other societies, 'too wise for so great a pleasure of life as laughter,' with an array of presidents, vice-presidents, secretaries, and council, to give dignity to their learning; nor are the communications generally of that abstruse character in which some of our societies take pride. There is no regular place of meeting, the club being an itinerating one, its members followers of the peripatetic school. By previous agreement, they assemble at a certain convenient point at eight or nine in the morning, are entertained to breakfast by one of their number, and then step forth to breathe the fresh air and investigate the natural productions of the locality. They take care to return in time for dinner, for naturalists like good living as well as other men. Dinner over, they toast the prosperity of the club, and forthwith proceed to the more strictly scientific business of the meeting. And thus right pleasantly is spent the meeting-day of the Berwickshire Naturalists' Club.

The club was instituted on the 22nd of September 1831, and continued to go on in its quiet course, making no display before the world of science, save the modest light which its meritorious "Transactions" shed abroad. Its original aim was to encourage a taste for natural history in the district, and especially to investigate the natural history and antiquities of the eastern borders; and there is now abundant evidence to show that