

The Garden now begins to engage the thoughts of all who are interested in rural life, and of those also who, being prisoners in the city, patronise the *rus in urbe*. The first thing to be done is to mature our plans for the season, decide what improvements are necessary, what to sow, what to plant, and how our garden crops are to be treated: and then let the necessary seeds be obtained. In order to ensure the full benefit of our summers, it is necessary to have young plants of cabbages, cauliflowers, tomatoes, and many others, brought forward early in the hot-bed. The hot-bed may be made up any time after the first week in March. If made up before that time it will require a larger quantity of manure, and that must consist of fresh stable manure, obtained where the horses are fed upon grain. Later in the season, the ordinary horse manure, mixed with cow dung, will be sufficient to generate the heat required. The manure should not be covered with too thick a layer of earth—six inches is an ample depth; and instead of sowing the seeds in the soil, they are better sown in very shallow boxes, with somewhat open bottoms, each kind in a separate box. Where this method is adopted a still thinner layer of soil may be laid upon the manure, and the heat will be economized. Several articles will be found in our Garden Department descriptive of a new Grape Vine, and a new Climber, and notices of Cannas, and Aucubas, as plants well adapted for summer ornament, and not without interest in the dull winter season. Since our article on Aucubas was written we have received the *Gardeners' Monthly*, and find that Mr. Meehan, the Editor, is of a mind with ourselves, since he has treated his readers to an excellent article on the new Aucubas, which we intend to reprint in our next number.

In Natural History we have this month a very full account of the habits of the Musk Deer, which, besides introducing to us an extremely interesting animal that is very little known, brings to the notice of naturalists a phase in animal life that is almost new to them, viz., the change of habit induced by external circumstances.

Under the title "Small Talk—Flying Straws" will be found a heap of facts

swept together chiefly from the pages of Agricultural papers which reach us as exchanges.

The list of Extra Awards and Diplomas granted to the exhibitors at the late Exhibition whose meritorious articles were overlooked, will be perused with interest. The final report of the Exhibition is ready for the printer, with the exception of one or two small matters of detail which require to be settled before the Report can be issued as perfect. It is a more voluminous document than was expected. No pains have been spared to make it as full and accurate as possible. Besides the Public Addresses delivered, it contains the particulars of every prize offered, the number of competitors for each, the name and address of the winner of each prize, the names of prize animals as far as known, and the amounts awarded. The Extras exhibited are described in the same full manner. The names of the Judges, in each section, are given, and all other particulars likely to be of interest, or useful in enabling comparisons to be made with the detailed results of past and future Exhibitions. The Committee's labour did not end when the Exhibition closed; they have had repeated meetings, settling claims and examining into disputed points. If every one has not obtained satisfaction, it is not for want of pains on the part of the Executive Committee and the various sub-Committees. The Diploma has been engraved by Mr. Clark, and is now ready for issue to those Exhibitors to whom a Diploma or Honorable Mention was awarded.

We understand that a Deputation from the Game and Fisheries Protection Society visited the Parish of Sackville last week, for the purpose of examining the Sackville River. We trust their attention was called to the destructive practice of the saw-millers in throwing all their sawdust into the River, and thereby poisoning the fish. The Saw Mills represent a more important interest than any River Fisheries we have in the Province; but there is no need of interfering with the prosecution of lumbering in order to guard the fisheries. All that is wanted is to compel the lumberers to throw their sawdust aside upon the land, where it can be carted away for farm purposes, or else, burnt. There can be no

hardship in seeking this simple remedy, and then we should have our rivers well stocked with fish, and all jealousy between the milling and fishing interests set at rest.

(Special from our Paris Correspondent.)

PARIS, January 29, 1869.

There is no country so advanced that it has not something yet to learn; and no nation's agriculture but has something to teach.—Great efforts are now required to solve that agricultural problem which includes all others—the best system of cultivation; and it cannot be otherwise than instructive to be aware of what Europe is doing in this respect. My letters shall therefore be confined to the actualities of Continental farming; in practice, to that which is useful; in science, to what is prudent. In all work, philosophers recommend method; and, following Byron's plan, "my method is to begin with the beginning." Aware of the advantages of a "rotation" in farming, the agricultural system of each European nation will be noted in turn. However M. Bismarck may deny to France the premier rank in Europe in politics, he must concede her this position in a practical and experimental agriculture.

France can never be a country of "monster farms." Since the Revolution of 1789, landed property, by the abolition of the law of primogeniture, has been extremely divided. The arable land is about 113 millions of acres, of which small proprietors own 69, medium 13, and large owners 28. Not only by their number, but by territory, the small holders predominate. In the neighborhood of towns land is most split up, almost into the cottier or allotment system; but never so small as to be ridiculous, as when this "minute division of the soil" is in question, the eldest member of the family either buys up or rents the shares of the others, or a wealthy proprietor steps in as purchaser, the transfer of land being as easily negotiated as government stock. The climate of the Empire embraces the productions of the temperate zone in its fullest extent, which, consequently, are as varied as they are rich. The cultivators are industrious in every rank, their condition comfortable, rather than luxurious; and where badly off, are never positively in want. About twenty-five per cent. of the general taxation of the country falls upon agriculture. The extensive forests which cover so large a portion of the Empire are in the hands of the government, being leased out to the highest bidder, who has power to sub-let, either for the timber, which must be cut "according to law," or for hunting. The two great "revolutions" in French farming have taken place within the last fifty years. The first was that in "rotation" of crops. An old three-course was followed, consisting of the division of a farm into two portions, one being in meadow; the other was subdivided into equal parts,—one of these was under grain, the other fallow, that is, remained unproductive once in every two or three years. Thanks to progress, a root crop, generally potatoes, has superseded the fallow. A five-course rotation, comprising roots, wheat, clover, wheat and oats, is the favorite at present. The second revolution, dating some thirty years back, has been in manuring—that is, the employment of arti-