

GESNERIA EXONIENSIS, deserves better attention than has hitherto been bestowed upon it, for it is one of the most noble plants of the race to which it belongs, and one of the best winter flowering plants in cultivation. The figure published as an advertisement, conveys but a poor idea either of the superb velvety leaves or brilliant clusters of scarlet flowers by which, when well grown, this plant is distinguished. We strongly recommend this plant to cultivators in need of first class winter flowers.—*Gardeners' Weekly*.

SHADING YOUNG EVERGREENS.—Suel Foster, of Iowa, remarking that shading is absolutely necessary for the young plants, says that at Douglass' nursery, at Waukegan, three modes are adopted. 1. Strips of building-lath are nailed on two narrow strips of boards, so as to make screens four feet square, which are easily handled—the spaces between the lath admitting only one-half or one-third of the sun's rays. 2. Cross boards are nailed horizontally, seven feet high, on tall posts, and brush worked in below the cross boards. 3. Brush is stuck up at the south side of the beds.

PASSIFLORA MUNRO.—A hybrid between *P. alata*, female, and *P. coerulea*, male. This will be a valuable greenhouse climber, the foliage resembling that of the male parent (*coerulea*), while the flowers are intermediate in character between those of both parents. The whitish or bluish tint of the male parent and the reddish colour of the female become here amalgamated into a lovely pale bluish violet. The threads of the corona, too, have, while preserving the peculiar barred markings of the female plant, lost their coarse texture, and assumed more of the delicate fringe-like appearance and rich colour of the corresponding parts in *P. coerulea*. The fragrance is that of *P. alata*. It is altogether a very elegant and charming addition to a group already not destitute of attractions.—*Gardener's Chronicle*.

GOLDEN CHAMPION GRAPE.—It is not only a decided novelty but a novelty of the very highest excellence—free and robust in growth, hardy and prolific in habit, magnificent both in berry and in cluster, and exquisite in flavour. The bunch is moderately large, compactly shouldered and somewhat tapered, with a stout fleshy stalk. The berries are very large, with stout, warted footstalks, some two inches long and three and a half inches in circumference; and they are generally of an ovate shape, but occasionally somewhat roundish, and they have a thin, pale yellowish green skin, which acquires a rich golden amber tinge with a slight bloom when they are fully ripe. The flesh is tolerably firm, but tender, with few seeds, very rich and juicy, with a flavour which compared with that of the Black Hamburg is, to our taste, much more saccharine and luscious than that variety, even when grown on the same stock. It has received a first class certificate from the Fruit Committee at South Kensington. The foliage is very slightly lobed and deeply and sharply serrated.—*Florist and Pomologist*.

POTATO ROT AMONG NEW VARIETIES.—It seems that the growers of the new varieties that bring such a high price are tempted to kill the goose that lays the golden egg. An exchange states that some of the new varieties of potatoes have begun to rot, and attributes the cause of the disease to the use of unnatural means to obtain great growth:—

The people were desirous of making them yield as great a crop as possible, consequently stimulating manures were abundantly applied to the soil, and in a few instances diseased tubers were the consequence. There were some who were not satisfied with merely cutting up the potatoes into pieces, containing only a single eye; but they put them into a propagating house, and when the tops were a few inches long they were cut off and forced to produce roots, and this process was continued until late in the season. We know of one instance where two barrels of potatoes were produced from one tuber, but nearly one-half rotted soon after they were dug, and no wonder, after being subjected to such a steaming process. There are several new varieties of potatoes in the market, some of them selling very readily at fifty dollars each, and it must be expected that those who pay such prices will do their best to increase the stock.

ERROR AS TO PRUNING.—On page 58, the *American Agriculturist* for February, 1869, says: "The best time for pruning is after the trees have completed their Summer's growth; the worst time is when they are growing in Spring." Fifteen years experience has taught me exactly the reverse of this theory. That is, the best time for pruning is in the Spring, when the trees have just commenced their growth. Why? Because the wound is not exposed three or four months to the snow and the cold, the freezing and the thawing, the wind and the rain, which in some instances materially injure the tree, no matter how well protected by grafting wax. If the pruning is done just as the tree commences its growth with a fine sharp saw or other pruning tool so as to bruise the wood and bark as little as possible, the healing process ("the ring of wood and bark") commences to grow almost instantaneously. Hence the wound will grow over sooner with much less injury to the tree than if done in Autumn. I have made this statement for the benefit of those "who find themselves in charge of trees for the first time," and hoping that Mr. Judd will give us in his succeeding articles a little more "why" and a little better "when."—*A. A. Hull, in N. Y. Tribune*.

STRAWBERRIES.—J. F. C. Hyde (President of Massachusetts Horticultural Society) names the following as among the most valuable proved sorts in the eastern portions of the United States, *Wilson's Albany*, not of first rate quality, but the great market strawberry for the million. *Triomphe de Gande*, nearly the only foreign sort for field culture—to be grown in hills—popularity rather waning. *Brighton Pine*, one of the best market sorts; its only drawback is that it