

M R. B A K E R.

JOHN GILBERT BAKER, F.R.S., F.L.S., Keeper of the Herbarium and Library in the Royal Gardens, Kew, is a familiar personage to all who have been employed at Kew during the past thirty years, partly because he has given annually a course of lectures on Organography and Systematic Botany, but chiefly from his frequenting the gardens so much for the purpose of studying the living collections, Mr. Baker being exceptional among botanists in the amount of attention he has given to cultivated plants. His lectures have always been popular, his emphatic, lucid style being easy to follow, whilst his kindly encouragement, pleasantness, and vein of humour tend to give the "tyro" a relish for botany which might otherwise be missing.

No botanist of the present time has done so much for horticulture as Mr. Baker. His monographs of all sorts of garden genera published in the horticultural journals, his handbooks of Irideæ, Amaryllideæ, and Bromeliaceæ, his lectures at Gardeners' Societies, Conferences, and Meetings have been most helpful in keeping garden nomenclature in botanical "trim," and in revealing the extent and richness of certain orders of plants.

Mr. Baker's knowledge of plants of all kinds is astonishing. British plants he knows as few others know them. He has the names of all the Ferns, Irids, Amaryllids, and Bromeliads at his fingers' ends, the merest scrap of leaf or flower being often sufficient for him to identify the plant.

A list of all Mr. Baker's contributions to botanical literature would fill several pages of our Journal. Botany is his hobby, his play as well as his profession, and the amount of work he gets through is prodigious. Even his holidays are spent in botanizing rambles in Yorkshire, the Lake country, or Switzerland.

He was born in Guisborough, on the Cleveland Moors in Yorkshire, in January 1834. He began collecting and drying British plants when he was twelve years old, and this led in time to his becoming one of the first of amateur British botanists. He was for many years Curator and Secretary of the London Botanical Exchange Club. Until 1866 botany was merely a hobby with him, but in that year he was offered and accepted the position of First Assistant in the Herbarium at Kew. On the retirement of Professor Oliver in June 1890, Mr. Baker was appointed Keeper of the Herbarium and Library, an appointment which was hailed with great satisfaction by horticulturists as well as botanists. A photographic reproduction of a portrait of Mr. Baker at work, painted by Mr. J. W. Forster and exhibited in the Royal Academy, was published in the 'Gardeners' Chronicle,' 1893, xiii. p. 746, along with an appreciative notice of Mr. Baker's work by the editor, Dr. Masters. A list of Mr. Baker's principal works is given in 'Men of the Time.' Mr. Baker's son, Edmund, is a member of the staff of the Botanical Department of the British Museum.

ANNUAL REPORT.

(Read at the General Meeting held on February 25, 1897.)

In submitting their fourth Annual Report, the Committee have a satisfactory account to offer of the affairs of the Guild generally. The balance-sheet compares favourably with those of previous years, there being a balance in hand of nearly £20, while the sum of £16 12s. 6d. has been invested with the Thomson Bequest. A considerable number of Life Subscriptions have been received, and the Committee hope that members who are in a position to do so, especially those residing abroad, will avail themselves of this arrangement.

After some delay owing to legal difficulties the Thomson Bequest has been secured and invested in accordance with the wishes of the testator. The total amount bequeathed was "the sum of £100 to be invested in New South Wales 3½ per cent. Stock, the interest thereof to be drawn annually by the Trustees for the time being." The actual amount received after payment of probate duty, etc., was £92 8s. 6d. This sum, together with £16 12s. 6d. from the funds of the Guild, was devoted to the purchase of £100 worth of New South Wales Stock costing £109 1s. It stands in the names of the Director and Curator of the Royal Gardens, who have consented to act as Trustees. From this investment the Guild will receive annually the sum of £3 10s.

The Directory is gradually becoming more complete, addresses being received from various sources. A few names have been removed from the list owing to death. There are still, however, many blanks which the Committee hope to fill with the aid of members. The Committee regret to have to record the death of the following well-known Old Kewites:—Mr. Bruce Findlay, Curator of the Botanic Garden, Manchester, and Mr. John Ewing, ex-Curator of the Sheffield Botanic Garden*.

The Journal appears to have given general satisfaction. It will be seen that the cost of the last issue exceeds that of previous numbers; this was due to the additional portraits given, which the Committee feel satisfied were appreciated. Communications are invited from members who are able to add to the interest of the Journal by notes of their surroundings, experiences, etc. Photographs also are requested for the Guild Album, which is now rapidly filling, thanks largely to a number of photographs of Old Kewites which were accumulated by the late Curator and have since been secured by the President.

On the strong representation of the Secretary, the Committee, after due consideration of all the circumstances, deem it advisable to combine the duties of Secretary and Editor of the Journal. By this arrangement all communications will be brought into one channel and a considerable saving in correspondence will be effected.

* Not a Kewite. See note on p. 10.

Hitherto the accounts have been examined by two members at the request of the Committee. It would be preferable if auditors were annually appointed by the General Meeting.

A statement of the income and expenditure for the year is appended:—

Revenue and Expenditure Account, 1896-97.

<i>Receipts.</i>		<i>Expenditure.</i>	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Balance	18 13 2	Hire of room for Annual General Meeting	0 15 0
Subscriptions and Adver- tisements.....	49 14 0	Printing etc., of Journal ...	29 6 6
Interest on Deposits in P.O. Savings Bank ...	0 4 10	Postage, Stationery, etc. ...	2 0 0
Thomson Bequest	92 8 6	New South Wales $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Stock (£100).....	109 1 0
		Balance	19 18 0
	<u>£161 0 6</u>		<u>£161 0 6</u>

PROCEEDINGS.

General Meeting, Feb. 25, 1897.

The Meeting was held in the Garden Lecture Room by permission of the Director. There were about seventy members present.

The Secretary read the Annual Report, the adoption of which was moved by the President. He spoke of the marked progress the Guild had made since its inception in 1893, and thought that its parent, the Mutual Improvement Society, was to be congratulated on having established so useful an institution. The Journal gave general satisfaction, being not only a medium of news of interest to Kewites but also of considerable usefulness, as showing the character of Kew men and the nature of their duties and studies whilst employed there. Present Kewites had the advantage of the Mutual Improvement Society which, as now organized, must play an important part in the professional education of all who joined it. He thought everyone at Kew, whatever his position, ought to do all that lay in his power to make the Mutual, what indeed it had already been called, the Debating Society of the University of Gardening. The position Kew now held in the opinion of the horticultural world was very different from what it was formerly, and he thought this was due to the superior quality of Kew men and to what the Director had termed the "spirit of loyalty, not to say affection, which always animates Kew men towards their *Alma Mater*."

Mr. R. H. Pearson (1890) seconded. He was delighted to hear from the Report that financially the Guild was becoming stronger every year. He asked what proportion of those whose names occur in the Directory were subscribers, and suggested that the names of non-subscribers should

be erased. The Journal had been considerably improved by the substitution of what he would call newsy paragraphs for lengthy papers on every-day horticultural subjects. He was one of many who entertained the hope that the Journal would be published quarterly; he therefore was not certain that the Committee's recommendation to combine the duties of Secretary with those of Editor was a step in the right direction. The Guild had shown through its Journal a capacity for good work in the cause of horticulture, and he thought it should go ahead. Kewites were about five hundred strong: the Guild might therefore be made a powerful factor in the efforts now being made to raise the status of the professional horticulturist.

Mr. J. Weathers (1888) read a letter from Mr. J. Leighton, of King-Williamstown, expressing a hope that the Guild would go on and flourish. The Journal had the effect of reuniting him with Kew and his old associates. He could not speak too highly of the whole concern. Mr. Weathers proposed that some arrangement should be made for a general gathering of Kewites some time during the summer, either by means of a cricket match or a dinner or a *conversazione*. It was all very well to meet in a crowded room in winter, but something more sociable was he thought desirable.

Mr. W. W. Pettigrew, Cardiff (1890), said the Report gave him much pleasure, and he was glad to be able to be present at that meeting. He never came Londonwards without spending a day at Kew, and it was always a most profitable day professionally. Whilst he regretted to learn that there were Kewites who were non-subscribers, he did not agree with the proposal to exclude their names from the Directory. He wanted to know the whereabouts of all Kewites, whether supporters of the Guild or not. He did not think there were likely to be many non-payers after the Journal had become better known. The subscription was such a trifle that he felt certain all would gladly pay. He agreed, however, that the Journal should only be sent to subscribers. He thought the Editor's duties a sufficient tax on his good nature without adding to them those of the Secretary. However, Mr. Watson had an inordinate appetite for work, and the Guild might rest assured that its affairs would not suffer in his hands. They could only express their gratitude to him for having done so much and for his willingness to undertake still more.

Mr. C. H. Curtis (1892) suggested that non-subscribers should be indicated in the Directory by starring the names of all subscribers. He again recommended that an illustration of some striking feature or plant in the Gardens should be given in the Journal. He also said the Guild ought not to work the willing horse too hard by allowing one officer to undertake practically all the work. However, he supposed the Editor would ask for help if he found he needed it.

Mr. J. Fraser (1885) was surprised and pleased by the strength of the meeting. He thought the question of a quarterly Journal would be decided by the amount of "copy" in the hands of the Editor. If the Journal was to appear oftener the subscription would necessarily have to

be increased. He liked the Journal in its present form, and hoped Old Kewites would continue to send notes of their work and surroundings.

Mr. J. Gregory (1866) said he had heard with pleasure that the Guild Album was rapidly filling. He had some photographs which he would be pleased to present to the Guild, and he would have much pleasure in supplying photographs of any scene or object in Kew that was desired for publication in the Journal.

Mr. E. J. Mische said the Kew Mutual and Guild were now well known institutions in the United States. He had learnt many valuable lessons during his sojourn in England, but none more valuable than those inculcated at the meetings of the Kew Mutual, by the Lectures, and by the Kew system as a whole. He should carry away with him lasting impressions of the thoroughness and enthusiasm of the young English gardener as revealed by those employed at Kew.

Mr. S. Skan, as representing the Herbarium staff, said the proceedings were watched with considerable interest. He thought it would suit the convenience of Old Kewites if the General Meeting were held later, say in the same week as the Temple Show.

Mr. Aikman read a letter from Mr. F. W. Burbidge, M.A., proposing that "an appeal be printed in the Journal this year on behalf of the Victoria Era Fund of the Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Institution to which all gardeners ought to contribute, and our Guild ought to set the example." After some discussion it was decided that an appeal should be made as suggested, and the proceeds be divided equally between the Gardeners' Royal Benevolent and the Gardeners' Orphan Association.* Referring to the proposal to combine the offices of Editor and Secretary, Mr. Aikman said he had urged the Committee to do this because he was certain that it would be advantageous in every way. Whoever was Secretary should also be Editor of the Journal. The Guild was to be congratulated on having found Mr. Watson agreeable to give the proposal a trial.

The President, in dealing with the various questions raised, said the Committee might be trusted to see that the Guild was well officered and that he did not think the Editor was likely to fail in anything he undertook. He hoped more members would see the advantage of a life subscription. Those who failed to send their subscriptions would, he hoped, soon see the error of their ways. He thought the present plan of the Journal was satisfactory. He agreed that it could only be published quarterly by a considerable increase of labour for the Editor and also of subscriptions. We must not forget that the editorship was an honorary office. The proposal to add to the illustrations of the Journal would no doubt be considered. The adoption of the Report was then put and carried unanimously.

Votes of thanks to the Committee as a whole and to Mr. Aikman in particular were heartily accorded. The meeting then proceeded to elect Committeemen in accordance with the regulations and with the recommendation in the Report. A list of the Officers will be found on the inside of the cover.

* See p. 18

NOTES, CORRESPONDENCE, ETC.

VISITORS DURING 1896.—The number of persons who visited the Royal Gardens during the year 1896 was 1,396,875. That for 1895 was 1,407,369. The average for 1886-95 was 1,425,526. The total number on Sundays was 536,181, and on week-days 855,715. The maximum number of visitors on any one day was 86,399 on May 25, and the smallest 62 on March 18.

GARDEN-WORK AT KEW, 1896.—Except the completion of the south wing of the Temperate House, no work of extraordinary importance has to be recorded for last year. The development of the collections generally, the improvement of their keep, and a considerable amount of rearrangement of groups of plants as well as of paths have been pushed forward. The heating of the Victoria House, never very satisfactory, has been improved by the removal of the pipes into a trench in the path, an arrangement which can be strongly recommended in the interests of the cultivator. The tropical Fern-houses are to be reconstructed this year. The patent Lattice blinds for shading plant-houses invented by Messrs. Walters & Co. have been adopted for the Orchid pits; so far they are satisfactory. "Wild" gardening has become an important feature at Kew, especially in Spring, when the bold effects obtained by the use of thousands of bulbous and other plants which flower in the early months of the year are greatly admired. Somewhat similar is the effect produced in the Bamboo and Rose gardens recently constructed, and which are now picturesque and interesting features.

The collection of Clematis and allied plants has been re-planted on bolder lines and promises to be a success. Improvements have been made in the landscape features contiguous to the Isleworth and Brentford entrances, so that now, visitors on entering the Gardens receive the right kind of first impression. The Palace Lawn is a beautiful addition to the north-west corner of the Gardens, the walk from the Main Entrance across the Lawn towards Brentford Ferry being much frequented by visitors. Several of the walks in the old Botanic Garden which had become either indirect or practically useless have been obliterated, and new walks suited to the requirements of the present time have been made. Concurrently with the preparation of the Hand-lists of the collections the labelling of the plants has been proceeded with; when completed this will render the collections of far greater value to students and horticulturists than was possible whilst the labelling was more or less tentative.

THE TEMPERATE HOUSE.—The south wing of this house was completed in March this year and is now being planted with a selection of plants that require an intermediate temperature and plenty of sunlight. It forms a handsome structure of similar outline to the large central portion, built in 1863, but differs in having less stone-work, fewer and lighter

sash-bars and larger panes of clear glass. It is 112 feet long, 62 feet wide, and 37 feet high. There are a broad central and two narrower side paths and there are no stages, all the plants being planted out in beds of soil. The building of the north wing is to be begun this year. When completed this range of houses will be 582 feet long and its superficies about $1\frac{3}{4}$ acres, or twice the area of the Palm House at Kew.

KEW HAND-LISTS.—The second part of the catalogue of the hardy ligneous plants grown at Kew was published in September last. This completes the catalogues of plants grown in the open air at Kew. A catalogue of all the indoor Monocotyledonous plants has been prepared and is in the printers' hands. The hand-lists published and sold at the Gardens at present are:—Hardy Trees and Shrubs, part i., price 8*d.*; part ii., price 1*s.*; Coniferæ, price 3*d.*; Ferns and Fern Allies, price 6*d.*; Herbaceous Plants (Hardy), price 1*s.*; Orchids, price 6*d.* Guides to the three Museums and North Gallery in one volume, bound in green cloth, are to be had at the Gardens, price, post free, 2*s.*

THE JOURNAL.—Back numbers of the Journal can be had on application to the Secretary. Only a few copies of the first number (1893) remain, and for this the price is Two Shillings. Numbers II., III., and IV. can be obtained at One Shilling each.

PICTORIAL ASPECT OF KEW.—An interesting notice of the growth and development of the picturesque features of Kew was published in the *Bulletin* for August, 1896. It was written by the Director as a preface to a volume of 24 pictorial views of Kew, entitled 'The Poetry of Kew Gardens,' published by M. and Mde. de L'Aubinière, the artists from whose paintings the views were prepared. The work is a beautiful album of really artistic pictures.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF KEW.—Mr. J. Gregory of Croydon, who is a very successful photographer, has made a collection of about fifty views in the Royal Gardens, a set of which he has presented to the Guild. He will be pleased to supply sets or selections of these views to Kewites at the undermentioned rates. It is due to Mr. Gregory to add that he makes this offer at the express desire of the Committee, who believe that many Kewites living a distance from Kew would like to have a collection of these views, which are really well executed.

$\frac{1}{2}$ plate ($6\frac{1}{2}$ in. by $4\frac{3}{4}$ in.) on 10 in. by 8 in. mounts:—

Silver prints, per copy 9*d.* or 8*s.* per dozen.

Bromide prints, per copy 1*s.* 3*d.* or 12*s.* per dozen.

Lantern slides of same, about 12*s.* per dozen.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY ON KEW.—The question of opening the Royal Gardens at an earlier hour was discussed at some length in the House of Commons on April 9. In the course of some observations by Mr. Chamberlain he said: We were justly proud of these gardens, which

had a claim upon the support of the House as a great scientific establishment. He had seen almost every botanical garden in Europe, none of which could hold the candle to Kew. He was not speaking as to the ornamental features of the gardens, but as to their scientific value. In his capacity as Colonial Secretary he was continually applying to Kew in reference to the cultivation of all kinds of plants, and he did not hesitate to say that some of the great improvements recently made in some of the Colonies were due almost entirely to the advice and assistance received from Kew.

DR. D. MORRIS, C.M.G., the Assistant Director, accompanied a Commission appointed by the British Government to enquire into the condition and prospects of the West Indian islands affected by the depreciation of cane-sugar through the competition of beet-sugar. Dr. Morris went as expert adviser in agricultural and botanical questions. His experience in Ceylon, the West Indies, and at Kew eminently qualify him for work of this kind. He left Kew in January and returned in May.

MR. WILLIAM DALLIMORE has been appointed Foreman of the Temperate Department at Kew in succession to Mr. T. Jones, who left Kew in September last year to start in business as a Florist in Wandsworth. Mr. Dallimore entered Kew in 1891 and was employed in the Tropical and Arboretum propagating departments before being promoted to his present post.

RECENT APPOINTMENTS FROM KEW.

Miss A. M. Gulvin,	H.G. to J. Brogden Esq., Iscoed, Ferryside, Wales.
George J. Bean,	Foreman, Victoria Nurseries, King-Williamstown, S. Africa.
Thomas H. Candler,	Foreman, Herbaceous Dept., Blenheim Palace.
George H. Cave,	Assistant, Royal Botanic Gardens, Calcutta.
William B. French,	Assistant, Municipal Gardens, Queenstown, S. Africa.
Thomas J. Harris,	H.G., King's House Gardens, Jamaica.
John H. Holland,	Assistant, Botanic Station, Old Calabar.
James Kennan,	H.G. to W. Watson, Esq., Holme Eden, Carlisle.
John Mahon,	Forester, British Central Africa.
George B. Mallett,	H.G., Bignor Park, Pulborough.
John W. Miles,	Foreman, Victoria Nurseries, King-Williamstown, S. Africa.
Ernest E. Negus,	Foreman, Brockett Hall, Herts.
John C. Newsham,	Foreman, Biddles & Co., Loughborough.
James Rourke,	Foreman, Botanic Gardens, Glasgow.
William Thorpe,	Propagator, Botanic Gardens, Durban, Natal.
Frederick C. Tribble,	H.G. to Dr. H. Muller, Camberley, Surrey.
William Walters,	Foreman (Orchids), Sander & Co., St. Albans.
Harry Williams,	Foreman, Heligan, St. Austell, Cornwall.

MR. JOHN MAHON (BROWNE).—After serving nearly six years at Kew, where he has given every satisfaction, our coadjutor and energetic Committeeman has accepted an appointment in the new Colony of British Central Africa under Sir Harry Johnston, his title being that of "Forester." In the performance of his garden duties, at the meetings of the "Mutual," and in various other ways Mahon's conduct has been exemplary. Those who know him will feel disposed to congratulate Sir Harry Johnston as well as Mahon on this appointment. He has our heartiest good wishes. He leaves for Africa in June.

Mahon will be better known to Kewites as J. M. Browne. For family reasons he has adopted the name of Mahon.

MR. PATRICK WEATHERS (1889) has been appointed Curator and Secretary of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Manchester, in succession to the late Mr. Bruce Findlay. Mr. Weathers' experience at Kew, where he was employed five years, at St. Albans with Messrs. F. Sander & Co., and as English representative to Messrs. Linden of Brussels, amply qualify him for his present responsible post. He entered upon his new duties in January this year. We heartily wish him success.

MR. JAMES GUTTRIDGE (1891) has been appointed Curator of the Botanic Gardens, Liverpool. He entered upon his new duties in January last. Of the six candidates selected from the numerous applications made for this post, five were Kewites. Mr. Guttridge is succeeded at Glasgow by Mr. James Rourke, who is well spoken of by his chief, Mr. Dewar.

BRITISH BOTANIC GARDENS AND THEIR CURATORS.—Kewites may reasonably feel proud of the fact that the Curatorships of all the Botanic Gardens are held by Kew men. At Glasnevin there is no Curator, and at Edinburgh the duties of the Curator are fulfilled by two head gardeners, one of whom, Mr. Harrow, is a Kewite. The other Botanic Gardens are Birmingham, Cambridge, Dublin (Trinity College), Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester, Oxford, and Sheffield. The Curators of these are Kewites.

MR. F. W. BURBIDGE, M.A., F.L.S., writes:—"If I might venture to make a suggestion *re* 'matter' for our Journal, it would be that all our foreign members more especially be incited to tell us of their lives and environment. Let us have more news, gossip even, of our own fellows rather than articles on plants or 'shop' of any kind. Those who are far away from Kew tell us how they welcome news of Kew and present Kewites, and all who are at or near Kew are just as eager for news of those who have gone to distant lands. In any case, defend us from ordinary articles of technics and culture." The Editor would be glad if this excellent suggestion were acted upon.

MISS A. M. GULVIN.—After a year's training at Kew, Miss Gulvin accepted, in January last, an appointment as head gardener to J. Brogden, Esq., Iseod, Ferryside, S. Wales. The following extracts from a letter,

written after two months' experience in her new post, are especially gratifying to those who desire to give the women gardeners fair play:—"On my arrival I was piloted round the gardens by 'an old hand,' who gave me discouraging accounts of my predecessors' troubles. The condition of the place too was disheartening: still I set to work in earnest, and we are gradually getting things ship-shape. My men are all that I could wish, no cause for anxiety in that quarter. We are building new houses and relaying out parts of the gardens. From what I have seen of the gardens in our neighbourhood, I do not think we shall have occasion to fear comparison with the best of them. If Kew were only nearer I should feel perfectly happy."

MISS A. HUTCHINS is still at Kew. She has been promoted to a gardener's position, having charge of certain houses and frames. The two other women gardeners are employed in the Herbaceous Department.

MR. D. DEWAR.—The popular Curator of the Botanic Gardens, Glasgow, passed through a dangerous illness in the spring and came out on the right side. He was operated upon for abscess on the kidney with complete success, the Glasgow doctors being proud of the result. Mr. Dewar looks and says he now feels a better man than ever.

MR. JOHN EWING.—The highly esteemed ex-Curator of the Botanic Gardens, Sheffield, died in July last at the age of eighty-three. In the notices published in the horticultural papers it was stated that he "once held a very good position at Kew Gardens." We are informed by Mr. W. Harrow, the present Curator of the Sheffield Gardens, that Mr. Ewing's son is certain that his father never was employed at Kew.

MR. PERCY T. INGRAM (1882).—Our Journal for 1895, p. 10, contains a sonnet on Kew by Mr. Ingram, our poet. He has lately written several comedies, which have been set to music and produced by the 'Follics Troupe.' His last sketch was entitled 'The Lady Gardener,' in which the scene is laid at the Temple of Æolus at Kew. Here is a taste of it:—

"THE PROFESSOR:

Of ethical intellect I am the pinnacle;
I am the compass and light on the binnacle.
You mentally favour the ape that's arboreal;
Your morals are painfully Plesiosaurial.

CHORUS OF LADY GARDENERS (*in knickerbockers*):

Your self-estimation is simply ridiculous,
Bumptious pretensions as waggeries tickle us,
Tickle us, tickle us, tickle us! (*Dance*)."

IS IT FORGETFULNESS?—It is surprising how ready some men are with suggestions and talk of help in the affairs of the Guild, but whose assistance never takes any practical shape. The "coolest" example of this kind is from one whose name we suppress. Here is an extract from

his letter, lately received :—“The Journal is an immensely interesting publication, a charming reminder of the happy time spent at Kew. Kindly correct my address, which is now ———. Allow me to cordially endorse the suggestion that the Journal should be published more frequently ; it would be most welcome to all distant Kewites.” The Committee would be pleased to receive this member’s subscription. He has had all the Journals but has not paid a penny yet !

MR. O. E. WÜG (1896) writes :—“After six years’ experience in some of the best gardens in Europe, I have returned to Norway to take charge of the garden of Herr Godsejer Young, in Hakedalen, about 20 miles from Christiania. We are in a long valley surrounded by high pine-clothed mountains : a beautiful place in summer, but cold and dismal in winter, when one sees nothing but miles and miles of pines and birches laden with snow. We have had a fall of snow on every day in March, and some days so heavy that we had to dig our way into the plant-houses. The London fog cannot be much worse than this. Still we have a fair amount of success in gardening, our air being clear and the light good, whilst hard work is not so fatiguing as I found it at Kew, for instance.”

MR. JULIUS HANSEN (1887) writes :—“I send you twenty-one shillings as my life subscription to the Guild. By the way, I am not a private gardener but a nurseryman, chiefly interested in lily-of-the-valley. I shall be delighted to see any Kewites who visit the great International Exhibition at Hamburg this year. My home is only half an hour’s rail from Hamburg, and my house is open to as many Kewites as care to honour me with a visit. The Exhibition will probably be the largest ever held in Europe.”

MR. R. DERRY (1883), Superintendent of Government Plantations, Perak, writes :—“August, 1896. It is seventeen years to-day since I first reported myself at Kew, and I have just heard from Kennedy of Darjeeling that it is sixteen years since he last saw me, and that he discovered my whereabouts from the Guild Journal for 1896. And now about Perak. The place is turning out very well and bids fair to be better. The ‘mem sahib’ likes it. We are located on a mountain eight miles from Taiping, at an elevation of 3,600 feet. The temperature is simply delightful, and we can live comfortably without sweating ! The place has been ill-kept, but since I have been here I have set to work to organize it, with the result that I have plenty to do. My station is on the hill and my duties are, to take charge of the station (it is a Government sanatorium) ; get in as much revenue as I can by the sale of milk, vegetables, butter, etc., without making a farm or market garden of the place ; look after the Government bungalows, of which there are four, and the roads, for which I am paid extra. In town there is a public garden, which has just been handed over to me, but I cannot do much there till next year. About 23 miles up country I have a fruit-garden at

the old Residency and another cattle-farm, and eight miles up the river a Pepper-garden to manage. These are my duties at present, with an occasional visit to report on land for planting, etc. At the end of the month I put the 'mem sahib' into a sedan chair, and take her down to Taiping, where I have an office and clerk, leaving her here for a few days while I run up country and do my work there. I have a horse and can ride a good deal, which suits my liver. These hills are particularly rich in plants of all kinds, but I have not started collecting yet, having no money for it. I am trying to get some on next year's estimates, and then I can make some headway botanically. This locality would suit Jack; we have tigers, elephants, rhinoceros, snakes, etc. galore. I was over in Penang about a month ago and saw Curtis; he was rather better, but not good for so much work as before."

MR. GEORGE H. CAVE has been appointed an Assistant on the staff of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Calcutta. He writes:—"I arrived here on October 24, and was met by brothers Lane and Davies, both of whom had just recovered from a bout of fever, for which they had to go into hospital. These gardens remind me of Kew, being situated about five miles westward of the town and on the bank of a river. They may be a trifle larger than Kew, and they have good roads and lawns. Annuals are in great favour here, cultivators discussing stocks, asters, etc., with the same keenness as the chrysanths are discussed by the 'mummers' at home. The public may ride, drive, or cycle in these gardens, and picnic parties are frequent. I am surprised to see how well such plants as Cape bulbs, cacti, and Australian plants do here."

MR. H. F. MACMILLAN, Curator, Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya, Ceylon, wrote in August last:—"I am delighted with the Journal just to hand, and so is my chief, Dr. Trimmen, to whom I lent it. The portraits are really well done and most valuable. You will have to make an effort to let us have a Journal every half year. The gardens here are being much improved by various alterations in landscape effects. My wife and I have kept in excellent health. Mr. Nock and his family are also well. He is busy just now with the show of the Agri.-Hort. Soc., of which he is Secretary. Mr. Peter Clark, my predecessor, calls often. He has a first-rate berth, having a salary more than double what he had when in these gardens, not reckoning commissions, and from what I hear he will get still more. He says he is very comfortable and happy in Ceylon."

KEWITES IN AFRICA.—There are no less than eighteen Kewites now occupying important positions in various parts of the African Continent, and this number bids fair to be doubled in a short time when the political atmosphere clears and Britishers settle down to work. Our friends at Capetown are kept busy by fresh arrivals, who call there to be "coached" and encouraged. That they get both is evident from the following note.

MR. G. H. RIDLEY (1892), Assist. Supt. Municipal Gardens, Capetown, writes :—"September, 1896. Your letter came as a pleasant surprise. Such letters are the best of medicines for a man in the Colonies—they cheer him up and give him fresh energy. I went down to the docks to meet Miles and Bean on their arrival here and brought them to the gardens. After we had lunched together I took them for a ramble on that part of the mountain called 'The Lion's Rump'; it is not very steep, but it proved quite sufficient to make them very tired. I do not know how they would have felt if we had gone on to the 'Table.' Miles said the voyage had improved his health, and Bean looked very well and happy. Mathews had the following day off and took them to Claremont to see Mr. Arderne's gardens, where there is a splendid collection of plants. They left Capetown on the day following, in good spirits. A few days after W. B. French and his wife arrived. Mr. Chalwin invited them to dinner, and subsequently showed them the sights of Capetown, which they seemed to enjoy very much. W. B. was not looking so well as when I last saw him in England, but I am sure the Queenstown climate will soon brace him up."

MR. JOHN W. MILES and MR. GEORGE J. BEAN left Kew in June last to fill an engagement with Mr. James Leighton, Nurseryman, Victoria Gardens, King-Williamstown, and formerly Curator of the Botanic Gardens there. Mr. Miles writes :—"After a pleasant voyage, in which calls at Teneriffe, Capetown, and Port Elizabeth were both interesting and enjoyable, we arrived at East London on July 25, where we were met by Mr. Leighton and his brother. We took train for King-Williamstown, distant 41 miles, which we made in $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours. Mr. Leighton is the principal nurseryman here, and does as much business in fruit as all the others put together. He has about 250 orange trees about 20 feet high. The locusts served him badly last year, clearing off every green leaf in the garden, notwithstanding great fires, the beating of tins and other noises. When the veldt is baked brown the locusts make for the gardens. Last year at Blaney, near here, they laid on the ground a foot deep and stopped the trains. The garden is on the bank of the Buffalo river, about a mile from town. The chief things grown are fruit-trees, conifers, acacias, roses, eucalyptus, casuarinas, and various other decorative plants. Mr. Leighton also does a good business in seeds. He appears to be satisfied with us, and we certainly like our place and surroundings."

MR. C. HOWLETT (1894) writes from Uitenhage :—"I am sending you a collection of bulbs, tubers and seeds just sent me by a friend in Mashonaland. You may find some new things amongst them. [We did.] The bother in the Transvaal has had an ill-effect on our trade, and we are afraid things will never settle until England has asserted herself through 'Tommy Atkins.' This country suits me, for I like the work, and my health is better than it ever was at home. *Plumbago capensis*, our common hedge-plant, is full of flower now. A plant of *Tecoma*

Smithii, which we obtained from England last year and planted out, is now a big bush 7 feet high covered with large racemes of lovely yellow flowers, and is a beautiful picture."

MR. W. THORPE has been appointed propagator in the Durban Botanic Gardens, Natal. He writes:—"I like this place immensely. Mr. Medley-Wood and Mr. Wylie were very kind to me on my arrival. The gardens are nicely planned and contain many large specimens of interesting plants. *Bauhinia Galpini* is in full flower and is a beautiful shrub. Many of your stove plants luxuriate in the open here, just as laurels and privet do at home. Cannas are a magnificent feature. We have plenty of fruits such as Anona, Artocarpus, Mango, Granadilla, etc., and a whole orchard full of ripe oranges. We have glass houses and frames for delicate plants and babies. By-the-bye we have a lady botanist attached to our staff; she does not wear bloomers! Our labourers are Kaffirs and Coolies. We work from six to six, with an afternoon off once a fortnight. I saw Ridley and Mathews at Capetown; they looked very fit and were as happy as sandboys. Their gardens are in first-rate order. I saw Mr. Rhodes' residence; a Mr. Arderne's garden was also worth seeing. *Watsonia alba* was very fine there."

MR. W. B. FRENCH was appointed, in June last, Assistant at the Municipal Gardens at Queenstown, S. Africa. He writes that his health has improved since his arrival, and that although the garden is only the beginning of one it improves every day. He took a wife out with him, and they have a nice house with a large garden where oranges, figs, peaches, grapes, pears, and apricots are both abundant and good.

MR. J. W. MATHEWS, Municipal Gardens, Capetown, communicates the following:—"I am glad the bulbs and seeds I sent were acceptable. The Disas have been lovely on Table Mountain during the last two months (January and February). I was up twice and gathered some tubers for Kew. The blue *Disa* seems to delight in just the opposite conditions to *D. grandiflora*, for the present is the driest part of the year, yet they are flowering. All the *D. grandiflora* I saw were in decidedly moist positions, such as the margin of a stream, or on ravine slopes where water constantly trickles down. Rain may be expected next month in increased quantity, when the Disas will be flooded. I am sending a few notes about Cape gardens for the Journal:—

"The initial step towards a garden at the Cape is, probably, to clothe the veranda, an indispensable adjunct to every dwelling, with climbers to afford shade during the summer, and, if space permits, a *Grevillea*, *Schinus*, or *Melia* will be added for the same purpose. In time a lawn is formed with *Stenotaphrum americanum*, a very coarse and often shabby grass, but contrasting pleasantly with the parched ground outside the garden. Our more pretentious gardens are more or less copies of the European style. There are many enthusiastic cultivators of plants here,

but it cannot be expected in a country so young that gardening should receive much attention. There are gardens in Capetown containing many lovely plants as well as many that are interesting botanically. One may see the chaste *Narcissus* luxuriating among grotesque *Opuntias* and *Euphorbias*; *Passionflowers* of the West clinging to the sturdy British oak, studding its branches with flowers and fruits; whilst the sweet perfume of the *Violet* greets one when strolling in the cool of the evening beneath stately *Palms*, *Araucarias*, and *Dracænas*. *Cestrums*, *Libonias*, *Poinsettias*, *Reinwardtias*, and *Eranthemums* are gay with flower when the Oak, the Plane, and the Linden tree are destitute of foliage, for Nature will have her way, and the Oak takes its rest despite a temperature almost equivalent to that of summer in its northern home. In June the *Acacias*, *Lantanas*, *Camellias*, etc., push forth their blossoms, and *Bignonia venusta* on the veranda showers down its golden flowers in profusion. *Azalea*, *Browallia*, *Senecio*, *Hardenbergia* and others continue the display to the end of August, when the flower-beds are gay with *Poppy*, *Anemone*, *Ranunculus*, *Stock*, *Pansy*, etc.

“In September and October, our Spring, the gardens are at their best. It will not, however, compare with an English Spring, owing largely to the predominance of dull-coloured evergreen trees and shrubs, and to the deciduous ones breaking into growth at widely different times. During almost every month of the year there are some trees and shrubs quite destitute of leaves. But we have continual sunshine and consequently plenty of flower at all times. We are rich in *Palms*, *Dracænas*, *Araucarias*, tree-*Aloes*, *Yuccas*, etc., affording variety at all seasons. *Guelder roses*, *Mock-Oranges*, and shrubby *Spiræas* flourish side by side with the gaudy natives of tropical lands, which they rival in health and floriferousness, notwithstanding the altered seasons and conditions. The greenhouse plants of British gardens are quite at home in the open here, many in a condition surpassing that of specimen plants at European shows. In moist situations *Alpinias*, *Hedychiums*, *Bamboos*, and *Cyperus Papyrus* are quite happy. During the summer our flower-beds are gay with *Balsams*, *Cockscombs*, *Gaillardias*, *Pentstemons* and similar plants, all revelling in the abundant sunshine if well watered. The brightly coloured *Amaranthus* and *Iresine* develop into good-sized bushes, and *Alternantheras* are often used as a substitute for box-edgings. Lovely hedges of *Plumbago*, *Buddleia* and *Tecoma* divide the terrace-gardens; more formidable fences are made by the use of *Hakeas* and the ‘Kei apple’ (*Aberia caffra*).

“Few of our trees are very tall. *Araucaria excelsa* is the loftiest, surpassing even the ‘Gums,’ of which there are many species of very quaint and diversified appearance. Several species of *Ficus* are much planted, but the Oak seems to be the favourite shade-tree. Very distinct trees are the *Casuarinas*, *Castanospermum*, *Trichilia*, *Ailanthus*, and *Grevillea*, the latter being well named the ‘Silky Oak;’ its curious amber-coloured flowers render it an object of attraction and admiration.

“South African plants, especially those of Natal and the East Coast, hold their own against all ‘foreigners,’ whether for fragrance, beauty, or

richness of colouring. Amongst them are Carissa, Pavetta, Gardenia, Plumbago, Strelitzia, Leonotus, etc. There would seem little need for glass-houses in a land where the Granadilla, Guava, Mango, *Monstera deliciosa*, etc., ripen their fruits in the open, but the south-east wind, succeeded by scorching days, are very trying to many exotics, which thrive only when grown under glass. Alpines and plants from cool climates are difficult to keep in health here. The great want in the cultivation of cool plants is a substance to confine atmospheric moisture and afford shade, and at the same time sufficiently strong to resist the 'Cape Doctor'—the south-east wind, which sweeps down from Table Mountain most destructively at the height of summer. Even matured leaves do not escape, those on the higher branches being withered as by the blast of a furnace."

MR. JOHN H. HOLLAND, who was appointed in June last Assistant Curator of the Botanic station at Duke Town, Old Calabar, in the Niger Coast Protectorate, writes that his health has been fairly good since his arrival, and that Mr. Billington, the Curator, and he are very happy together.

"I went ashore at Sierra Leone to see Willey. He has really a fine place there, beautifully situated on a hill, commanding an extensive view of the surrounding mountain scenery and of the Freetown harbour.

"The Calabar gardens are well situated, on rising ground, covering altogether about 45 acres. This includes a large area planted with Coffee, a small proportion with Cacao, whilst experimental grounds and nursery occupy the remaining part. There is, I can assure you, plenty to do. The quarters are good, situated conveniently in the gardens, on a hill about 200 feet high. We have not a very extensive view of the surrounding country, being partly enclosed by dense bush (a photograph of which is enclosed, taken by Mr. Billington). We can, however, see Duke Town at the foot of the hill, and catch a glimpse of the river, with an occasional sight of a steamer passing by to the anchorage.

"As to climate, this is considered the hottest, but at the same time the healthiest place on the West Coast; at present it is not unlike warm summer weather at home. All things considered, I think I shall like being here very well."

Mr. Billington has drawn up a very useful little pamphlet, which has been translated into Efik, the native language of Old Calabar, and distributed gratis to the chiefs in the Colony, giving useful rules and hints respecting the growing of *Coffee* and *Cocoa*. To encourage planting, free gifts of plants are made to those chiefs who will clear the ground for them, and a small grant is made yearly for each plant alive and healthy at the end of the 3rd year. When the plant begins to bear, usually in 4 years, the grant ceases, and the plant becomes the property of the planter and begins to pay for itself.

MR. W. F. WILLEY, Curator of the Botanic Station at Lagos, returned to England on leave a few weeks ago. He gives a very good account of

the work of his station, in which he receives much help and encouragement from the Governor and other officials of the Colony, which is more than can be said of some Governors who have the control of Botanical Stations. Mr. Willey has as assistant Mr. J. E. Hartley, a coloured gardener who was trained in the Jamaica Botanic Gardens, and who spent a few weeks at Kew last autumn before proceeding to West Africa.

MR. W. HAYDON (1894), Curator, Botanic Station, Gambia, writes:—
 “April, 1896.—You will be pleased to hear that things are getting into ship-shape here. The Governor reports himself pleased with my work. We have set a batch of prisoners on to the preparation of Rafia fibre, and hope to send a lot on spec. to England shortly. My new house will soon be up; at present I am living in an ordinary native hut with two stones for a fire-place. ‘Pioneers! O Pioneers!’ as you say. We shall get this station into first-class trim if only I can keep my health for a year or two. The authorities appear to have at last discovered that one cannot make bricks without straw.”

MR. HENRY MILLEN (1890), Curator of the Botanic Station at Lagos, was in England last autumn, looking well and showing surprising activity for a man who has served on the West Coast of Africa for seven years. Mr. F. G. R. Leigh is now Mr. Millen’s principal assistant, and Mr. T. B. Dawodu has charge of the Gardens attached to Government House at Lagos.

MR. CHARLES H. HUMPHRIES, who succeeded the late Mr. Crowther as Curator of the Botanic Station, Aburi, Gold Coast, in June 1895, was recently in England on leave. He bears the climate fairly well, and finds the work of the station interesting. During his absence from Aburi, his place was taken by Mr. Charles Berryman, who returned to Kew last February, apparently none the worse for his visit to the Gold Coast.

MR. W. LUNT (1894), writes from the Botanic Gardens, Trinidad:—
 “These gardens are extremely beautiful, with splendid sea-views and landscapes, and a ravine nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile long planted with nutmeg and other spice-trees in the most robust health. There is a specimen of the Traveller’s Tree (*Ravenala*) which measures about 80 feet in height and is most majestic. My work is interesting, and I am happy and comfortable. I have a big house which, by the way, I found was not ‘partly furnished’ as stated in my agreement, and I had to stay in Mr. Hart’s house until I got enough furniture into my own. There was not even a bed or a chair. I did not come out expecting to have to spend a lot of money in providing necessary furniture. An inventory of the furniture should be given with the agreement in those cases where furnished or partly furnished quarters are said to be provided.” An interesting account of Mr. Lunt’s discovery of *Sacoglottis amazonica* in a forest some sixty miles from the Botanic Gardens was published in Trinidad *Daily News* for June 10, 1896.

M. LEON MONCOUSIN (1891) writes from Guatemala :—" I send you my life-subscription to the Guild. The Journal is of the greatest interest to me in this out-of-the-way place, and I get almost excited when the time comes for it to arrive. I enjoy all the news of Kew and my associates there. It is no doubt in great part due to my employment at Kew that I obtained my present first-class situation. When I come to Europe I shall hasten to Kew."

MR. CHARLES MOORE, F.L.S., ex-Director of the Botanic Gardens, Sydney, New South Wales, visited England last year, and we were agreeably surprised to learn from him that he is a Kewite, having worked as a gardener at Kew before 1847, when he was appointed Director at Sydney, a post which he held till last year. His reminiscences of Kew, with an account of his distinguished career in Australia, both as Director of the Gardens and collector in the New Hebrides, New Caledonia, etc., we hope to publish in a future issue of the Journal. Mr. Moore was a brother of the late Dr. Moore, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin; he is therefore uncle to the present popular Director, Mr. F. W. Moore.

MR. D. YEOWARD (1889), Curator, Botanic Station, Fiji, writes :—" You ask me to write something about this place and myself for the Journal. When I arrived in 1889 I found a sort of garden which Sir John Thurston had formed, but it was all out-of-hand, jungle-like in fact, and I had to set to work and make a new one near the Governor's residence. We have about twelve acres laid out and planted with all kinds of trees, chiefly economic, some of which were transplanted from the old garden. As the site chosen for the new garden was where the old native town of Suva stood, we had much levelling of ditches, mounds, etc., to do. Some of the ditches were so deep that it took nearly 500 cubic yards of rock (all blasted) to fill them. We are adding to the area of the garden every year, and in time this Station will stand comparison with the best. Sir John has always been kind and encouraging. My health has been fairly good from the first. I have a nice house, a wife and bairn, and although there is little pleasure to be had in Fiji, we make enough indoors, my wife being musical, whilst I have taken to fiddling. I am going in June (1896) for a three months' sojourn in Sydney, where I intend to leave my wife and child to recruit their health."

OUR JUBILEE APPEAL.—Mr. Burbidge writes :—

"Every gardener who is well to do, and especially all Kewites, should subscribe to at least one of our best known societies, the selection of that one or more being of course left to his own discretion.—The Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Institution is especially worthy of support, since it awards life-pensions or annuities to gardeners or their widows who are over 60 years of age, or totally incapacitated; while the Royal Gardeners' Orphan Fund gives relief to the orphan children of gardeners, at the time

such aid is most required. Both Societies are ably and economically managed on sound business lines, and in no way can a gardener help his unfortunate brethren or their orphans better than by subscribing to these funds."

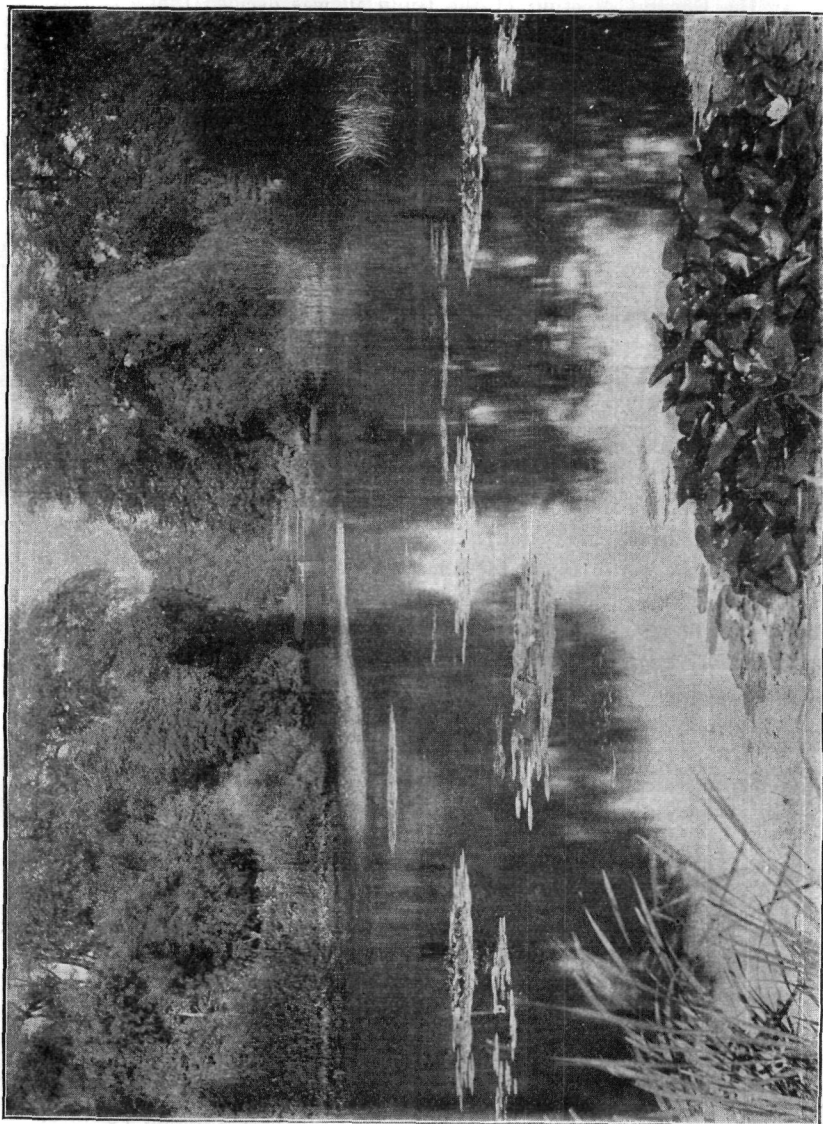
At the General Meeting of the Guild it was decided that a special appeal should be made this year to Kewites through the Journal for subscriptions for these two deserving Charities, to be equally divided between them and to be forwarded as "A Jubilee contribution from the Kew Guild." Will every Kewite please spare a shilling or more for this purpose. It should be forwarded to the Secretary.

THE LAKE IN THE ROYAL GARDENS, KEW.

THAT part of Kew which formerly was known as "The Wilderness," or Pleasure-grounds, and which is now designated The Arboretum, consists of about one hundred and eighty acres of what is now by far the most picturesque scenery in the Gardens. In 1850 Sir William Hooker was instructed to take charge of it and form "an arboretum, or classified collection of hardy trees and shrubs on a scale worthy of the nation." It was then "a large area of wooded and scrubby ground devoid of interest or picturesque effects;" it is now richly stocked with trees and shrubs from all parts of the world, and at the same time it is a paradise of woods and song-birds, shady glades, well-planned vistas, bold sweeps of green lawns, and set in the midst of it is a lake whose banks and islands are so skilfully planted with tastefully grouped tree and shrub and herb that artists of repute spend months in making pictures of the views it affords. This lake was made by Sir William Hooker about forty years ago, and anyone looking at it now, with its undulating banks and mounds, would find difficulty in realizing that it was once perfectly flat ground. The islands and banks are so designed that the extent of the lake cannot be seen from any one point. Its area is about five acres, and it is supplied by water from the Thames, which runs close by, separating Kew from its once famous neighbour, Syon Gardens, the demesne of the Duke of Northumberland.

The Conifer garden extends all along the south side of the lake, while placed about its margin is the collection of Willows, the Alders being conspicuous on some of the slopes.

Large trees of Oak, Elm, Poplar, Lime, and Chestnut are prominent features in the views to be seen from various points. In the water itself, or fringing the margin, are Irises, Sedges, Docks, Reed-maces, Water-lilies, etc.; whilst Daffodils, Poets' Narcissus, *Primula japonica*, and *Spiræas*, help to beautify its banks in spring and summer. There are also numerous water-fowl, which undoubtedly add to the charm of the scenery, although at the expense of many aquatic plants.



THE LAKE IN THE ROYAL GARDENS, KEW.

WEDDING BELLS.

Mr. J. Clark	to Miss Lena Shambrook at St. John's Wood on Mar. 28, 1897.
Mr. W. Dallimore	„ Miss E. A. Boulton „ Acton, Cheshire „ Nov. 26, 1896.
Mr. W. Fox	„ Miss L. Waite „ Chiswick „ Aug. 1896.
Mr. R. L. Harrow	„ Miss H. Solman „ Maidstone „ Sept. 23, 1896.
Mr. W. Harrow	„ Miss A. Hogbin „ Sheffield „ May 19, 1896.
Mr. H. Hecke	„ Miss E. Welch „ Woodland, Calif. „ Jan. 27, 1897.
Mr. C. Howlett	„ Miss A. Lobjoit „ Port Elizabeth „ Nov. 7, 1895.
Mr. W. Irving	„ Miss M. Pullman „ Kew „ Mar. 6, 1897.
Mr. H. Kempshall	„ Miss Bessie Hawke „ Richmond „ June 10, 1896.
Mr. G. H. Krumbiegel	„ Miss Kate Evans „ Bombay „ July 1896.
Mr. J. C. Moore	„ Miss Bertha Silence „ Barbados „ July 27, 1896.
Mr. J. F. Selley	„ Miss E. J. Fairchild „ Exborne, Devon „ Mar. 13, 1897.
Mr. F. C. Tribble	„ Miss L. Denman „ Petersham „ June 1896.
Mr. W. Watson	„ Miss L. Lywood „ Richmond „ Nov. 4, 1896.

THE LECTURES.

THE usual courses of lectures were given, with the following results:—

Systematic Botany. Lecturer, Mr. J. G. Baker, F.R.S.

23 certificates were granted. The highest number of marks were obtained by Miss A. Gulvin, 180; Miss A. Hutchins, 180; Mr. W. Hales, 180; Mr. S. Junod, 180.

Economic Botany. Lecturer, Mr. J. R. Jackson, A.L.S.

24 certificates were granted. The highest number of marks were obtained by Mr. J. Jones, 322; Mr. O. T. Hemsley, 322; Mr. R. Armstrong, 320; Miss A. Hutchins, 319.

Geographical Botany. Lecturer, Mr. R. A. Rolfe, A.L.S.

23 certificates were granted. The highest number of marks were obtained by Mr. E. H. Wilson, 100; Miss G. Cope, 97; Mr. J. Coutts, 94.

Chemistry and Physics. Lecturer, Dr. J. F. Harris.

19 certificates were granted. The highest number of marks were obtained by Mr. J. Jones, 341; Mr. T. H. Candler, 286; Mr. W. J. Jennings, 280.

British Botany Class. Secretary, Mr. J. M. Abbott.

11 certificates were granted. The collections were most creditable, both in regard to quality and mounting. The prizes were awarded as follows:—

- 1st. *Bentham's British Flora* (given by Dr. Morris),
to Mr. William Auton for a collection of 515 specimens.
- *2nd. *Hooker's Student's Flora* (given by Mr. Nicholson),
to Mr. William Tannoek for a collection of 420 specimens.
- *2nd. *Hooker's Student's Flora* (subscription),
to Mr. Robert Hunt for a collection of 376 specimens.

* Equal seconds.

The value of the Rhododendron in the garden and greenhouse, the positions, soils, and conditions most suitable for them were carefully and thoroughly set forth. There was a lively discussion, in which practical questions received most attention. There were 32 members present.

OCT. 26. THE PROPAGATION OF PLANTS, by M. Louis Gentil.—The raising of plants from seeds, spores, cuttings, layers, and grafts were the principal themes of this essay, which was of a thoroughly practical character and contained many useful hints and described some novel methods. In the discussion which followed comparisons between Continental and English methods of propagation proved interesting and instructive. There were 38 members present.

NOV. 9. HARDY TREES AND SHRUBS WITH ORNAMENTAL FOLIAGE, by Mr. Dallimore.—A list with descriptions of some of the newer plants of this category, with directions for their cultivation, propagation, and use in the garden, made a useful and instructive paper. The importance of planting for autumn effect, when the leaves of many trees and shrubs assume bright colours, was insisted upon. There were 27 members present.

NOV. 16. ROOTS AND LEAVES, by Mr. D. Tannock.—This was an instructive treatise on the work of roots and leaves with reference to soils, manures, water, light and air. Mr. Tannock succeeded in happily blending science with practice, and his paper was received with much interest and resulted in a good discussion. There were 39 members present.

NOV. 23. HARDY FRUIT CULTURE FOR PROFIT, by Mr. P. J. Gray.—This was a practical paper on the field-culture of Apples, Pears, etc., dealing with such questions as rents, rates, markets, and retail prices, as well as with the best sorts to grow, the most suitable situation for the orchard, soils, manures, pruning, etc. Samples of some of the best sorts of Apples and Pears were exhibited through the kindness of Mr. Bartlett and Mr. Herring of Dropmore. The general opinion of the members who took part in the discussion was that except in very favoured localities fruit-growing in this country could not be made profitable in the face of a cheap foreign supply. There were 36 members present.

NOV. 30. HORTICULTURE FOR WOMEN, by Misses Hutchins and Gulvin.—A sketch of professional horticulture was given, in which the healthiness, interest, and general influence for good of the work of the gardener were pointed out. The value of a scientific as well as a practical training for the gardener was insisted upon, the really competent gardener being he who understood something more about his plants than the pots, soils, and temperatures they require. The nature of the work done by women in the Swanley School of Horticulture was described. Heavy rough work might be beyond them, still such work need not be done by one who had been through the proper course of training, when it could be done at least as well by the garden labourer. At the same time women did not ask for more than fair play in their efforts to make a place for themselves in the

domain of horticulture. There was a demand for women who were trained horticulturists, and they hoped to be able to meet it. The discussion turned chiefly upon the physical disadvantages of women and the danger of their having a depreciative effect upon wages. There were 46 members present.

Dec. 6. ORCHIDS ABROAD AND AT HOME, by Mr. Rolfe.—The substance of this lecture has since been published in the *Orchid Review*. It was greatly appreciated at the meeting, and Mr. Rolfe was unanimously requested to give such a lecture annually. The text of the lecture was natural *versus* artificial conditions for Orchids. Mr. Rolfe also sketched the botanical characteristics, distribution, and the garden history of the order. There were 40 members present.

Dec. 14. THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF GARDENERS, by Mr. W. Sharp.—This was a good paper on a subject rife with contentious views and opinions. The general conclusion was that practice should come first, supported by as much of what is called theory or science as could be obtained. A gardener should know a great deal about plants as well as how to grow them. His education might be improved with advantage. There were 39 members present.

Dec. 21. ORCHIDS FOR CUT-FLOWERS, by Mr. A. Griessen.—A good practical paper on the cultivation of the most popular kinds of Orchids in large quantities for the supply of cut-flowers for market. It was mentioned that several large establishments were now devoting houses to Orchids for this purpose, and that the prices realised were remunerative. On the other hand, it was stated that Orchids thus grown had been found unremunerative in the United States. Mr. Griessen was awarded a first class Silver Medal for this paper by the "Cercle Horticole de Roubaix," in whose 'Bulletin Mensuel' it was afterwards published. It has also been issued by the same Society in pamphlet form.

Jan. 4, 1897. COMPOSITÆ, by Mr. S. A. Skan.—This was a purely botanical paper, but so treated as to prove interesting and instructive to gardeners. The botanical characteristics of the principal tribes of the order, the genera represented in horticulture, the improvement made by the cultivator and breeder in such genera as Dahlia, Pyrethrum, Aster, and Chrysanthemum, were treated upon. There were 32 members present.

Jan. 11. NEW AND RARE PLANTS, by Mr. W. Walters.—This was a descriptive list of some of the newest stove and greenhouse plants, with directions for their cultivation. Examples of some and pictures of others were shown. The small proportion of new plants that became established favourites in the garden was referred to. There were 32 members present.

Jan. 18. CARNATIONS, by Mr. W. F. Gullick.—The "Hooker" Prize was awarded for this paper, which was a thorough treatise on the Carnation from its earliest history to the present time. Cultural directions were given, also a selection of the best sorts to grow for market, for the

garden and for exhibition. The diseases of Carnations were described and remedies for them prescribed. There were 32 members present.

Jan. 25. ROSE-GROWING IN AMERICA, by Mr. E. J. Mische.—An interesting account of Rose-culture under glass as practised in the United States. The construction of the houses, soils, temperatures, and the sorts of Roses grown were described in detail and compared with English methods. There were 33 members present.

Feb. 8. HOW PLANTS CLIMB, by Mr. A. C. Bartlett.—This paper consisted of observations on the behaviour of various climbing-plants under cultivation viewed in the light of Mr. Darwin's classical work on the same subject. It was suggested that the conditions under which plants are grown artificially had considerable effect upon their climbing propensities. There were 29 members present.

Feb. 15. HORTICULTURE IN BELGIUM, by M. Leon Pynaert.—An historical account of the art in Belgium from the earliest to the present time. The important part played by Ghent in the history and development of European gardening was dwelt upon, and the support Belgian horticulture receives from the Government and from a thorough union of all the interests were described and explained. There were 28 members present.

Feb. 22. SOME IMPORTANT OPERATIONS IN GARDENING, by Mr. Watson.—The subjects dealt with were Light, Heat, Ventilation, Shade, Water, Soils, and Cleanliness, as affecting the health of plants grown under glass. The nature of the work and training for gardeners at Kew was also touched upon. There were 43 members present.

Mar. 1. The Report by the Secretary was read and the work of the Session discussed.

Mar. 8. The decision of the judges of the Essays (Messrs. Nicholson and Watson) was made known and the prizes awarded.

Chairman, W. WATSON.

Secretary, W. DYSON.

LANTERN-LECTURE ON SWITZERLAND.—A Lecture by Mr. John W. Reed on "Lucerne and the Alps of Stein" was given in the Lecture-Room on Feb. 1, 1897. It was illustrated by 108 photographic views, taken *en route* by the lecturer whilst touring among the Alps in June 1896 along with Mr. Nicholson. The room was crowded, and the lecture was listened to with great interest. Mr. Baker proposed and Mr. Hemsley seconded a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Reed for coming to Kew and giving such an instructive lecture.

DISTINGUISHED PAST KEWITES.

II.

IN continuation of the notices of Past Kewites, begun in the Journal for 1895 by Mr. Hemsley, the Editor has collected the following particulars, chiefly from the *Kew Bulletin* and the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, of six of the most notable of Botanical Collectors, who were sent out from Kew to collect herbarium specimens, seeds, and living plants for the Royal Gardens. At the time when this practice was adopted plant-collecting was not undertaken to anything like the same extent by nurserymen and others as it is now; nor were botanical stations so plentiful in distant parts of the Empire as they have since become. Consequently the work of collecting new and interesting plants, an undertaking far more costly and dangerous than now, devolved upon such establishments as Kew. A few wealthy patrons of horticulture, *i. e.*, the Duke of Northumberland, Lord Derby, Mr. Wilson Saunders, and several others, employed collectors entirely on their own account. The Royal Horticultural Society also had its collectors, among them being the immortal Robert Fortune. Horticulture as well as botany is largely indebted to Kew for many of the exotic plants which are now in almost every garden, and the men who risked their lives in obtaining them did so for less remuneration than a stay-at-home bricklayer can now command.

FRANCIS MASSON.

Francis Masson was the first and one of the ablest and most successful of the numerous gardeners sent out from Kew to collect living plants for the Garden. He was born in Aberdeen in 1741, and after serving his apprenticeship in Scotland, entered Kew as a young gardener. The date of his entry is not known, but in 1772 he was appointed Collector in South Africa, where he was to receive his expenses provided they did not exceed £200 a year, and the recompense on his return of £100 a year.

He remained at the Cape three years, collecting and sending home a profusion of plants, most of which were then unknown to science. He wrote: "My researches were chiefly at the Cape of Good Hope, where I had the fortune to meet with the ingenious Dr. Thunberg, with whom I made two successful tours into the interior. My labours have been crowned with success, having added upwards of 400 new species to his Majesty's collection of living plants [at Kew]." These included Cape Pelargoniums, previously unknown in gardens, all kinds of bulbous plants, Ericas, Cycads, etc. John Smith reckons that it was largely due to Masson's exertions that the Kew collection of Cape plants at the beginning of this century included about 1700 species. Masson returned to England and proceeded to the West Indies, where he remained several years collecting for Kew. In 1785 he was again despatched to the Cape of Good Hope, returning in 1795. He published in 1796 a folio volume of coloured figures and descriptions of the *Stapelieæ* of S. Africa. But the spirit of the collector came upon him again, and in 1797 he sailed

for North America to explore such parts as appeared likely to possess new and valuable plants. After four months' passage he arrived at New York, the ship having been captured on the way by a French privateer. There does not appear to be any record of his work in America. He died at Montreal in January 1806. He is described as a man of mild temper, of great industry, with a strong love of natural history and exceptional skill in the collection and preservation of specimens of both plants and animals. His name is commemorated in the genus *Massonia*.

JAMES BOWIE.

James Bowie was the son of a seedsman who kept a shop at the west end of Oxford Street, London. He entered Kew as a gardener in 1810. On the recommendation of Sir J. Banks and Mr. Aiton he was appointed Botanical Collector in 1814 in conjunction with Allan Cunningham, with whom he proceeded to Brazil. They appear to have collected together till 1817, when Cunningham was ordered to Australia and Bowie to the Cape. Bowie made large collections of bulbous and succulent plants, especially of *Mesembryanthemums*, *Aloes*, *Euphorbias*, *Heaths*, *Gladiolus*, and other *Irids*. The genus *Clivia* (*Imantophyllum*) was discovered and introduced by him. A vote in the House of Commons reducing the sum allowed for Botanical Collectors by one-half, necessitated the recall of Bowie from South Africa. Accordingly he returned to Kew in 1823, bringing with him many plants, including stems of *Encephalartos*, one of which, *E. horridus*, is still in the Palm-house at Kew. After his return he was engaged for some time in arranging his collections. According to John Smith his stay at Kew led to the formation of loose habits, "he spent his evenings in the public-house telling stories of his encounters with buffaloes, etc." He returned to the Cape in 1827, where he made journeys into the interior collecting plants etc. for sale. This move, however, does not appear to have been a profitable one. He complained of being ill-treated in the Colony, where he died in poverty in 1853. *Bowiea volubilis*, a very remarkable bulbous plant from the Cape, was named in his honour.

ALLAN CUNNINGHAM.

Allan Cunningham was the son of a Scotch gardener employed at Wimbledon House, Surrey, where he was born in 1791. He received a good education, his father intending him for the law, but he preferred gardening, and obtained employment at Kew under Mr. Aiton. This brought him under the notice of Sir Joseph Banks, who recommended him as being competent to fulfil the duties of Botanical Collector for Kew. Accordingly he was sent to Brazil, arriving at Rio in 1814. Here he remained two years, collecting in the vicinity of Rio, the Organ Mountains, San Paulo, and other parts of Brazil, making large collections of dried specimens, living plants, and seeds. Sir Joseph Banks wrote that his collections, especially of *Orchids*, *Bromeliads*, and *bulbs*, "did credit to the expedition and honour to the Royal Gardens." In 1816 he was

instructed to proceed to New South Wales, where he joined Lieut. Oxley's Expedition to explore the Lachlan and Macquarie Rivers. Subsequently he was attached to Capt. King's Expedition for surveying the coast of Australia and Tasmania. This survey occupied four years. In 1826 he visited New Zealand, where he spent four months botanizing. He returned again to Australia, and soon afterwards discovered the gap near Brisbane known as "Cunningham's Gap." Whilst in Queensland he discovered many new plants, of which may be mentioned *Araucaria Cunninghamii*, *Stenocarpus Cunninghamii*, *Archontophoenix Cunninghamii* (*Seaforthia elegans*), *Bowenia spectabilis*, *Castanospermum australe*, and *Flindersia australis*. He visited Norfolk Island, where he was attacked by a party of convicts and narrowly escaped with his life. He returned to England in 1831 and for the next five years lived near Kew, where he employed himself in naming and arranging his plants. In 1836 he was appointed Superintendent of the Sydney Botanic Garden in succession to his brother Richard, who was killed by natives while on an expedition to discover the source of the Darling River in 1835. In consequence of duties being imposed upon him which he considered incompatible with his position, he resigned this appointment. Shortly afterwards he went to New Zealand, where he made extensive collections of herbarium specimens, with which he returned to Sydney in October 1838, but in a deplorable state of health. He wrote: "I am past further great exertion. I can neither undertake any more expeditions or walk about in search of any more plants. But a man cannot during life be ever on his legs. I have now been twenty-four years leading a vagrant kind of life, and if I have done the least good in that period so much the better." He died on June 27, 1839, aged 48. A memorial window was erected to his memory in the Sydney Botanic Garden, and in the church there a marble tablet records his great services to the Colony. His numerous manuscripts as well as his private herbarium are preserved at Kew.

PETER GOOD.

There is no record of the entry of this young Scotch gardener into Kew. In 1786 he was selected from the Kew staff to proceed to Calcutta to bring home a collection of plants prepared by Christopher Smith. He returned to Kew, where he filled the position of foreman until 1801, when he was appointed Botanical Collector under Mr. Robert Brown, the botanist attached to Flinders' voyage of survey of the coast of Australia; they explored in King George's Sound and on the whole of the South coast, forming large collections of herbarium specimens and seeds. These were forwarded to Kew, where many new plants were raised from them, conspicuous amongst them being numerous species of *Proteaceæ*, *Myrtaceæ*, and shrubby *Leguminosæ*. These ultimately made Kew famous for New Holland plants, Dr. Lindley calling special attention to the magnificent specimens of these plants in his 'Report on Kew,' drawn up in 1838. The genus *Goodia* was named in Good's honour by Robert Brown. Whilst at Port Jackson he caught fever, from which he died at Sydney in June 1803.

WILLIAM KERR.

This young Scotchman appears to have entered Kew about the year 1800, for in 1803 he was appointed Botanical Collector for Kew in China. His first consignment of plants arrived in 1804, and among them were *Cunninghamia sinensis*, *Lilium tigrinum*, *L. japonicum*, etc. During his stay in China he visited Java and the Philippine Islands. There is no record of his doings from that time until 1812, but that he continued to do good work is evident from his having received the appointment of Superintendent of the Botanic Gardens, Ceylon, in that year. In the following year he visited Adam's Peak, a mountain in Ceylon, on which he discovered many new plants. He died in Ceylon in 1814. The genus *Kerria* was named after him by De Candolle. The Liverpool nurserymen, Messrs. Kerr and Sons, are descendants from him.

RICHARD OLDHAM.

“One of the most hardworking and successful of botanical collectors in Eastern Asia, Mr. Richard Oldham, died in November 1864, at Amoy.” This was the Kew Collector, who was appointed in April 1861, having previously been employed as a young gardener at Kew, where he entered in 1859 at the age of 20, on the recommendation of the Marquis of Westminster. According to John Smith he was well educated, and this is evident from his correspondence. Whilst at Kew he was employed in the Succulent House, his wages being 14s. per week. His appointment as collector in Japan and the China Seas was for a period of three years. The conditions of his appointment are curious. “He will be provided with a passage to China, and will be attached as a supernumerary to the Admiral's Flagship there. He must at all times be obedient to the Commanding Officers of the ships in which he will be dispatched to the different places. His salary will be £100 per annum. He will provide himself with clothes etc., and defray the expenses of his mess and all other personal expenses, except when on shore collecting, when his expenses of living on an economic scale will be paid by Kew.” The total cost of the expedition was £700. Oldham collected an enormous number of specimens, seeds, etc., both in Japan and China, many of our now popular garden plants from those countries having been introduced by him. For so young a man—he was only 21 when appointed collector—his success as a collector in such notoriously difficult regions as Japan and China was most creditable, and was duly appreciated both at Kew and in Amoy, where he preferred to remain on the termination of his collecting agreement with Kew. He afterwards visited Formosa and made large collections, but his health gave way, and he returned to Amoy to die at the early age of 26 years. A granite memorial was erected over his grave by his friends in Amoy, on which is recorded his success as a collector in Manchuria, Corea, Japan, etc. He was a native of Macclesfield.

A PRESENT KEWITE ON KEW.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—The Reminiscences of Old Kewites published in our Journal have been most interesting to those of us who have known Kew only in recent times. I venture to send you some account of Kew as I know it in the hope that it may interest them.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS.—I had heard a great deal about Kew before I arrived here, and I had imagined a great deal more. An old friend of my father's said it was a quiet little village with the river Thames on one side and fields and market-gardens on the other. He described Kew Gardens as a big place filled with all kinds of queer-looking plants, such as are not seen in ordinary gardens, into which people were admitted for purposes of study, adding that a gardener who got employment in them was "a made man." My imagination had pictured something between a school and a museum, with a swarm of professors to teach everything worth knowing about all the plants in the world.

When I arrived in April last year I found myself in what would stand in the country for a respectable town; three railway stations, a landing-stage for steamers, a busy system of tram-cars to Richmond and Hammer-smith, omnibuses to Brentford, Isleworth, etc., two churches, a wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market, a Theatre, about a dozen hotels, and a population of about 4000. Kew is now in the borough of Richmond, and the Mayor this year is our excellent medicine-man, Dr. G. Cundell.

All through the summer there are crowds of holiday people about on every day, whilst on Sunday the place is like a huge fair. My friends in the country would be shocked to see the boating and larking and to hear the song-singing indulged in on the blessed Sabbath by visitors at Kew. It is surprising how soon one falls into the habits and customs of his associates. I am afraid I now enjoy my Sundays in the southern rather than in the northern way.

LODGINGS.—My experience as a lodger at Kew induces me to offer a suggestion in the interests of the simple young man from the country who too often falls a prey to the sharks of "landladies," of which I believe there are not a few at Kew. Could not a registry of the good lodging-houses be kept? A committee of three or four gardeners could manage this by keeping a list of all the places that are good. My first lodgings were too bad for anything; I was robbed right and left, my food was often garbage, my bed too "lively" for words, except very strong language, and I was made to feel that my room was always better than my company. It was enough to drive a man to drink. Someone did suggest that the only cure for the bed-plague was a soaking of whisky, and my landlady's retort when I complained of the food was, that if I worked harder my appetite would improve. Luckily I afterwards found more comfortable lodgings at 15s. a week, all found, except washing.

Some of our fellows have help from home and so manage to live in style. They are also in a position to entertain their friends, have "at homes," etc. When, however, one has only his own earnings to

live upon, a guinea a week does not admit of any extravagances of this kind. In the country this would be considered a liberal allowance for living, but near London with its many attractions, one's expenses are apt to outrun his means. I am told Kew men should be studious, and make the most of their opportunities in the professional line—Why, certainly! We all do, but we are human, too. Anyhow, we do contrive to see something of London between times and by dint of economy.

Some members of the brotherhood are known as “sticks,” or “screws,” or “soreheads,” but on the whole we get on well together, and help each other in many ways towards that “education and preparation for the big world of life,” without which a man often makes a sorry mess of things, however well-up he may be in professional knowledge.

WORK.—The work of the gardener at Kew differs in many respects from that in private gardens and nurseries. It cannot be called very laborious, but there are considerable responsibilities, whilst one's absolute ignorance of many of the plants he has to look after is a source of anxiety and worry. I have potted bedding-plants by the week, thinned grapes, pruned and trained fruit-trees, and performed the other ordinary duties of the gardener, which, after a little practice, one does like shelling peas. How different such duties are from most of the gardening work at Kew can only be known to those who have tried both. No one who has not experienced it can have any idea of the nature of the gardener's work in such houses as the Palm House. Ten hours a day for six days in the week, seven days in every fourth week, in a tropical temperature, often doing heavy work, trying to keep plants healthy under the most artificial, often unfavourable, conditions, is an experience without parallel in horticulture at any rate.

I have heard Kew men spoken of as “lazy conceited devils” by men whose notion of work is digging and wheeling and who view the pursuit of knowledge with disdain. A Kew man who does his best at his work, in the lecture-room, in the library and with his books at home, has a right to be called a worker; he may grow conceited with it, but as a rule this does no harm. When I arrived I had all the conceit knocked out of me by discovering how little I really knew about my profession, compared with the older hands. I pegged away, however, and I feel firmer on my feet in consequence. I was told that good men get on at Kew and that poor ones get “off,” and from what I have seen I am inclined to believe this is true.

LEISURE HOURS.—The lectures, four a week, are instructive and helpful, and although after a long day's work in a tropical house one feels a yearning for the cricket-field, or a stroll by the river-side with a friend, instead of grinding at the desk and note-book, they are, I think, worth all they cost us in leisure time.

The Garden library is a great boon, not only because of the value of the books for immediate use, but also because it enables us to become acquainted with those works which are likely to be of the greatest service to us when elsewhere. Before I came to Kew the only garden

literature I saw was the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, *Loudon's Encyclopædia*, and *Thomson's Gardeners' Assistant*. A friend of mine once wrote to a gardening paper asking what books were best for a studious ambitious young gardener to read; the reply was "Our *Every Gardener's Guide*, price 5s., would suit you"! I have bought some good books from second-hand dealers in Hammersmith, Richmond, etc., since I learnt at Kew what were worth having.

THE ADVANTAGES Kew offers the "improver" are—An enormous collection of plants all labelled with their names and habitats; the division of the work into departments and the change of men from one to the other; the elevating feeling of responsibility for a definite charge or collection; the library, lectures, Mutual Improvement Society, British Botany Club, and last, but not least, the Cricket Club. I must also include the probability of obtaining a good appointment directly from or indirectly through Kew.

THE HOURS OF LABOUR are from six to six in the summer and from daylight to dark in winter, with $1\frac{3}{4}$ hours for meals. An afternoon off on every fourth Saturday is allowed to the gardeners. Sunday duty is compulsory, and averages about one Sunday in four. The wages are 21s. per week, with a day's extra pay for full-day Sunday duty and 2s. 6d. for afternoon duty. A week's annual leave is given. Medical attendance with full pay is allowed during sickness. The term of service for Englishmen is two years, for Foreigners one year; this does not apply to subforemen. The number of Foreigners is limited to five. I am told that blue serge suits and dark grey flannel shirts with collars are now prescribed by the authorities for gardeners employed at Kew.

IN MEMORIAM.

JOHN SMITH II.

ALTHOUGH the late Curator of the Royal Gardens, Kew, died in 1888, his portrait and memoir will no doubt be welcomed by readers of the *Journal*. He was remarkable rather as a practical gardener than as a man with scientific sympathies, in which respect he differed markedly from his predecessor "Jock" Smith, who was more botanist than gardener. The late Curator was born in Kelso, Roxburghshire, and in 1841 he became an apprentice under Mr. C. Pillans, gardener to the Duke of Roxburgh at Floors Castle. Three years later he left Floors for Alnwick Castle, Northumberland, then under the charge of Mr. W. Pillans. Here he remained twelve years. At the suggestion of the Duke of Northumberland he was transferred in 1855 from Alnwick to Syon, then under the care of Mr. J. Ivison. Syon was at that time famous for its collections of all kinds and especially of tropical plants. The Mangosteen fruited in Smith's first year. In 1857 he was appointed head gardener at Werrington Park, Cornwall, another residence of the Duke of North-

umberland, and two years later, on the death of Ivison, he was made head gardener at Syon. This was in 1859. Here his success in the management of the Syon collection was such as to attract the attention of Sir William Hooker and Dr. Lindley, and on the retirement of "Jock" Smith in 1864 he was offered and accepted the Curatorship of Kew. His age then was 38 years.

Whilst with the Duke of Northumberland, Smith had been largely employed in remodelling old and laying out new gardens; he had also studied surveying, levelling, etc. under masters at the express wish of His Grace. The experience thus gained was of great value to him at Kew, where he at once set to work, in co-operation with Sir William Hooker and afterwards with Sir Joseph, to reorganise the gardens by an improved system of walks, the rebuilding of plant-houses, the formation of the arboretum, the making of the lake, etc.

In 1883 the Director, Sir Joseph Hooker, wrote of him:—"I must bear my testimony to the way in which the Curator has performed his multifarious duties. The Gardens, Pleasure Grounds, and Plant-Houses have, since 1865, been transformed in all but a few of their leading features. The practical operations by which this has been effected have been all conducted by the Curator, who is further responsible for the keep of the grounds, and in which respects they have gained the unqualified admiration of visitors from all countries. He has retained throughout the entire confidence of the Director and the respect of his subordinates. In his official capacity he is as highly respected by the general public as he is by the Board."

About this time, however, his health began to fail, the death of his wife and only daughter had a still further ill effect upon his constitution, never very strong, and in May 1886 he found it necessary to retire from active duties. He died two years after (May 1888), and was buried in Kew churchyard, the whole of the Kew staff attending his funeral.

Mr. Smith was a man of fine presence and courteous manners, ever willing to oblige, and ever ready with a word of encouragement and kindly advice to the younger members of his staff.

MR. WILLIAM TRUELOVE.

The late foreman of the Arboretum at Kew retired from the service of the Royal Gardens in April 1892, and died in January 1894 in his seventy-second year. During his 26 years' service at Kew he superintended the planting of nearly all the collections of ligneous plants cultivated in the open air at Kew, and was responsible for their keep. A quiet man, of retiring disposition, he was scarcely known outside the Royal Gardens, but he had the respect and esteem of all his colleagues at Kew. On his retirement Mr. Primrose, Secretary to H.M. Board of Works, wrote:—"The Board desire to record their appreciation of the diligence and skill which Mr. Truelove has shown in the discharge of his duties during the period that he has been employed at Kew." His knowledge of trees and

shrubs of all kinds was exceptional, and he was always ready to impart it to anyone who applied to him. A dinner was given in his honour by his colleagues at Kew on his retirement, and his funeral at Brompton was attended by the Garden officials. The following particulars of his early career have been kindly supplied by his son, Mr. W. Truelove, who for many years has held the position of propagator and foreman in Mr. W. Bull's Nursery at Chelsea :—

“ My father was born at Buckland, a little village at the foot of Box-hill, Surrey, in March 1821. His father was gardener at Buckland Court, and here my father served till 1844, when he entered the nursery of Messrs. Knight and Perry at Chelsea. About a year afterwards he was engaged by Lady Rolle to take charge of her Arboretum at Bicton, where he remained 20 years. On the recommendation of Mr. Barron, Nurseryman, Borrowash, he was appointed a foreman at Kew in 1865. When a boy he raised the universally grown grape Buckland Sweetwater from some seeds that he sowed, the most promising plant being trained against his father's cottage. When it fruited its merits were seen, and it was secured and distributed by Mr. J. Ivery, Nurseryman, Dorking.”

MR. BRUCE FINDLAY.

The death of this distinguished Kewite occurred on June 16, 1896, in the sixty-second year of his age. He was born at Streatham, in Surrey, in 1835, and after serving his apprenticeship with Messrs. Rollison at Tooting he came to Kew. From here he was appointed foreman in the Botanic Gardens, Hull, which he left for a similar post in the Botanic Gardens, Sheffield. He was only 23 years of age when he left Sheffield to be Curator of the Botanic Gardens, Manchester. Here he had opportunities of showing his capabilities as a manager and organiser of a Society devoted to the promotion of botanical and horticultural pursuits. In 1875 he was made Secretary as well as Curator at Manchester. By this time his Society had become the strongest and most influential Society in the North of England. Manchester showed its appreciation of his services by presenting him, in 1881, with a cheque for £1000 and a gold watch and chain for himself and wife. In 1890 he was awarded the Veitch Memorial Medal for distinguished services to horticulture. The *Gardeners' Chronicle* in an obituary notice of him said :—“ He was one of the cleverest and most persevering men connected with horticulture in our times—clear-headed and irrepressible in matters which he wished to push forward, and certain to gain confidence by reason of his earnest, yet quiet, manner. Few men connected with gardening had a wider circle of friends than he, as he had the respect of all, both rich and poor alike.” Mr. Findlay frequently came to Kew, “ to polish up his botany ” as he used to say. His wife predeceased him, and he left three daughters, on behalf of whom an appeal was made by his Manchester friends, which resulted in a subscription of over £1200 for them.

Through an oversight Mr. Findlay's name did not occur in our Directory.

MR. WILLIAM G. HEAD.

We have to record the death of this distinguished Kewite, the able and respected Superintendent of the Gardens of the Crystal Palace, Sydenham, which occurred on April 3, 1897, after a long illness, in the sixtieth year of his age. Mr. Head began his gardening career at Arundel Castle, Sussex, and continued it at Shrubland Park, Ipswich, and at Drumlarig under the famous Mr. McIntosh. He afterwards was foreman at Chiswick, and came from thence to Kew, where he had charge of the Flower-Garden Department. Owing to failing health, he accepted in 1872 an appointment in India, where, until 1878, he had charge of the Gardens of the Calcutta Agri-Horticultural Society at Alipore. Soon after his return to England he was appointed, in 1879, Garden Superintendent at the Crystal Palace. Here he made considerable improvements in the Gardens both outside and under glass, and notwithstanding the encroachments of the Firework, Football, Nigger, and other shows, he succeeded in keeping the Gardens interesting and up-to-date. He was a man of genial, charitable disposition, and stood high in the respect of all who had dealings with him. He was buried at Chiswick. We are indebted to Messrs. Negretti and Zambra for this excellent portrait of him.

MR. CARL ZIMMER.

We greatly regret to have to record the death of this clever young German gardener, who left Kew in 1893 to be foreman in the Botanic Gardens, Munich. In 1895 he was appointed Superintendent of the Promenades of the Prince of Pless in Fürstenstein. He died of consumption (tuberculosis) on April 26, 1897. Mr. Zimmer was born in Silesia in 1865 and, after receiving a good education, entered the Gardens of the Prince of Pless. He proceeded from thence to Messrs. Haage & Schmidt, Erfurt, and thence again to the Pomological Institute in Wurtemberg. He then went on a walking tour through Italy, inspecting gardens etc. on the way. His next situations were the Forest School in Graz, Austria; the Jardin des Plantes, Paris; and the Royal Gardens, Kew, entering the latter in 1892. He was a man of extraordinary energy, and combined the skill of the cultivator with botanical sympathies to a remarkable degree. His funeral was a most impressive one, being attended by a large number of friends and fellow-citizens and numerous distinguished persons. Shortly before his death, the Prince of Pless personally called to see him and spoke kind and hopeful words to him.

MR. JOHN BARFOOT, who left Kew in 1860, died at Horsham after a long illness in March 1896. He held the position of head gardener in several private gardens before 1881, when he was engaged as head gardener to Lord Sherbrooke at Caterham, Surrey, a position which he filled till 1890, when he joined Mr. Jenner, Nurseryman, at Horsham.

PRESENT KEW STAFF.

		<i>Entered Kew.</i>
<i>(The names of Life-members are preceded by an asterisk.)</i>		
Director	W. T. Thiselton-Dyer, C.M.G., C.I.E., F.R.S., LL.D., Ph.D., F.L.S.	1875
Assistant-Director	Daniel Morris, C.M.G., D.Sc., M.A., F.L.S.	1886
Assistant (Office)	John Aikman	1888†
" "	William Nicholls Winn	1890†
Keeper of Herbarium and Library ..	John Gilbert Baker, F.R.S., F.L.S.	1866
Principal Assistant (Phanerogams) ..	*William Botting Hemsley, F.R.S., F.L.S.	1860†
" " (Cryptogams) ..	George Masee, F.L.S.	1893
Assistant (Herbarium)	Nicholas Edward Brown, A.L.S.	1873
" "	Robert Allen Rolfe, A.L.S.	1879†
" "	Charles Henry Wright	1884
" "	Sidney Alfred Skan	1892†
" for India	Otto Stapf, Ph.D.	1891
" "	J. H. Burkill, M.A.	1896
Botanical Artist	Miss Matilda Smith	1878
Doorkeeper	Samuel Marshall	1876
Specimen mounter	Miss A. Fitch	1894
Honorary Keeper, Jodrell Labora- tory	Dukinfield Henry Scott, F.R.S., M.A., Ph.D., F.L.S.	1892
Curator of Museums	John Reader Jackson, A.L.S.	1858
Assistant (Museum)	John Masters Hillier	1879
Preparer	George Badderly	1880
Curator of the Gardens	*George Nicholson, A.L.S.	1873
Assistant-Curator	*William Watson	1879
Foremen:—		
Arboretum	*William J. Bean	1883†
Greenhouse and Ornamental Department	Frank Garrett	1886
Temperate House (Sub-tropical Department)	*William Dallimore	1891†
Herbaceous Department	Walter Irving	1890†
Storekeeper	George Dear	1884
Packer	William Crisp	1875
Assistant Clerk of the Works	J. Allen	1879

† Entered as a young gardener.

SUB-FOREMEN.

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Department.</i>	<i>Entered Kew.</i>	<i>Previous Situation.</i>
Abbott, James M.	Arboretum	Nov. 1894.	Brathy Hall, Ambleside.
Bass, Edward	Propagating Pits.	Nov. 1888.	Trained at Kew.
Clark, John	Seed Collector	Mar. 1894.	Hillingdon Nurseries, Ux- bridge.
Dyson, William	Ferrieres	July 1895.	Cambridge Bot. Gardens.
Giessen, Albert	Orchids	June 1896.	Drost's Nursery, Richmond.
Hales, William	Decorative Dept. (Indoor).	June 1895.	Birmingham Bot. Gardens.
Jones, John	Label Writer	Feb. 1896.	Dale Gardens, Chester.
Mark, Frank M.	Decorative Dept. (Outdoor).	June 1895.	Turner's Nurseries, Slough.
Tannock, David	Palm House	Mar. 1896.	Ralston House, Paisley.

GARDENERS.

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Entered Kew.</i>	<i>Previous Situation.</i>
Armstrong, Robert . . .	Oct. 1895..	Rose Hill, Carlisle.
Bartlett, A. C.	Aug. 1896..	Dropmore, Maidenhead.
Bass, Thomas	Apr. 1892..	Trained at Kew.
Bolt, Philip	June 1896..	Worsley Hall, Manchester.
Coutts, John	Oct. 1896..	Grantully Castle, Perthshire.
Coxon, W. E.	Oct. 1896..	Glewston Court, Ross.
Davies, Cecil	Mar. 1897..	Clibran's Nursery, Manchester.
Gaut, Robert C.	May 1896..	Berwick Hall, Shrewsbury.
Gentil, Louis	May 1896..	Veitchs' Nurseries, Chelsea.
Girdham, Charles G. . .	Apr. 1897..	Norton Conyers, Ripon.
Gray, Patk. J.	Dec. 1895..	Newnham Paddock, Lutterworth.
Gresson, Robt. E.	Jan. 1897..	Glasnevin Bot. Gardens.
Grindley, William . . .	June 1896..	Broginton, Oswestry.
Gullick, William F. . .	Mar. 1896..	Halton, Tring.
Holley, Harry	Jan. 1897..	Low & Co's Nursery, Clapton.
Hunt, Robert	Nov 1895..	Chatsworth, Derbyshire.
Jennings, William . . .	Sept. 1896..	Mount Martin, Blackpool.
Johnson, Wm. H.	Apr. 1896..	Hatfield House, Hatfield.
Kemp, Ernest	July 1896..	Albury Park, Guildford.
Larsen, Hermann	Mar. 1897..	Low & Co's Nursery, Clapton.
Leslie, William	May 1897..	The Grove, Dumfries.
Lloyd, H. B.	May 1897..	Croxteth Park, Liverpool.
Ludewig, Max	June 1896..	Berlin Bot. Gardens.
Mackay, John	May 1897..	St. Nicholas House, Scarborough.
Martin, Thos. H.	Mar. 1889..	Trained at Kew.
Mische, E. J.	Oct. 1896..	Missouri Bot. Gardens, St. Louis.
Nelson, Thomas	May 1896..	Howick Hall, Northumberland.
Sands, Wm. N.	Mar. 1897..	R. H. S. Gardens, Chiswick.
Sharp, Wm. S.	Oct. 1895..	Wichnor Park, Staffs.
Thomas, Harry H. . . .	Apr. 1897..	Royal Gardens, Windsor.
Tinley, Geo. F.	Apr. 1897..	R. H. S. Gardens, Chiswick.
Turner, Samuel	Sept. 1895..	Mossley Park, Manchester.
Wilkins, William	June 1896..	West Cliff House, Ramsgate.
Wilson, E. H.	Jan. 1897..	Birmingham Bot. Gardens.

WOMEN GARDENERS.

Cope, Gertrude	Jan. 1897..	Swanley Hort. College.
Hutchins, Alice	Jan. 1896..	Swanley Hort. College.
Morland, Eleanor	Apr. 1897..	Messrs. Cheal, Nurserymen, Crawley.

OLD KEWITES.

(The names of Life-members are preceded by an asterisk.)

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Left Kew.</i>	<i>Present Position and Address*.</i>
Aggett, William	June 1888 ..	70 St. James's Road, Bermondsey, S.E.
Aherne, Michael	Aug. 1866.	
Aikman, Alexander	Dec. 1895 ..	Messrs. Pearson, Nurserymen, Chilwell.
Aldridge, A.	About 1850..	N., Petersham, Surrey.
Allan, William	Aug. 1851 ..	H. G., Brownlow House, Lurgan.
Allen, Robert	Oct. 1878.	
Appleby, George	April 1866 ..	Went to St. Helena.
Archer, Sydney	Mar. 1895 ..	Hyde Park, W.
Arksey, Thomas	Dec. 1870 ..	Went to United States.

* Abbreviations: H. G.=Head Gardener; F.=Foreman; N.=Nurseryman; M. G.=Market Gardener.