

## RICHARD IRWIN LYNCH.

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MR. LYNCH may be described as the type of what the curator of a teaching garden connected with a great University should be. Possessing a keen love of plants with a leaning towards their botanical aspect, and blessed with a strong appetite for knowledge of all kinds, he has ever been a student and worker. Born at St. Germans, Cornwall, in 1850, he entered Kew as an improver-gardener in 1867. A few years later he was raised to the rank of foreman, first of the hardy herbaceous plant department, subsequently of the tropical and propagating departments, which then ranked as the senior foremanship at Kew. This position he held until 1879, when, on the recommendation of Sir Joseph Hooker, he was appointed to the curatorship of the Cambridge University Botanic Gardens in succession to Mr. Mudd, deceased.

Whilst he was at Kew Mr. Lynch took full advantage of every opportunity that presented itself to acquire botanical as well as horticultural proficiency. He is the author of several interesting papers read before the Linnean Society, and for these he was elected an Associate of the Society in 1881. He has also contributed many excellent articles to the horticultural press, including the *Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society*, his papers on *Hybrid Cinerarias* (1900), *The Evolution of Plants* (1900), and A new classification of the Genus *Paeonia*, which were published in that *Journal*, being most valuable treatises. His *Book of the Iris* (John Lane) is a valuable contribution to garden botany.

Mr. Lynch's best work, however, has been done in the Cambridge Garden, which he has made second only to Kew among the public gardens of England. Always a keen collector, he has got together there a collection of plants of quite extraordinary extent and interest, obtained almost entirely through exchange or for "love." Naturally the University authorities are proud of their garden, and they showed their appreciation of its curator by awarding to him last year the Honorary Degree of M.A. "in recognition of services rendered to Botanical Science in the University as Curator of the Botanic Garden."

Among his many notable successes in horticulture are the raising of numerous hybrids, the breeding of a new race of *Gerberas* by crossing *G. Jamesoni* with other species being quite a remarkable achievement. In 1901 he was awarded the Veitch Medal, conferred only for practical merit, and in 1906 he received the Victoria Medal of Horticulture from the Royal Horticultural Society. Mr. Lynch is well known in continental centres of horticulture, having visited and officiated at conferences or exhibitions held in various towns in France, Germany, Holland, Belgium, Russia, Switzerland, etc.

Those Kewites who personally know Mr. Lynch, and they must number several hundreds, do not require to be told of his urbanity and kind disposition. Naturally proud of his garden, he is ever ready to place his knowledge and experience at the service of any botanist or gardener who calls to see the plants and to learn the secrets of their cultivation etc. He takes a sympathetic interest in the young men who are employed in the Cambridge garden, helping them to obtain other situations when their healthy aspirations are towards bettering themselves.

## ANNUAL REPORT.

(1906-1907.)

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THE Committee have pleasure in presenting the Report for the year ending April 30, 1907.

The demand for the *Journal*, of which 750 copies were printed, steadily increases; this year 679 copies being distributed. Complete sets are particularly in demand, several botanical institutions applying for them. The Secretary will be glad to purchase the numbers for 1893. The price of a complete set is 42s.

The receipts for the year amounted to £65, including 25 life subscriptions, bringing the total number of Life-Subscribers to 248. The expenditure was £41 17s. £50 worth of New South Wales 3½% Stock was purchased, making the total thus invested £300.

The Annual Dinner took place as usual at the Holborn Restaurant, Mr. B. Daydon Jackson, F.L.S., presiding; 135 members were present.

The Committee regret to have to report the death of six members, namely, Messrs. F. T. Bruun, L. Farmar, W. B. French, J. Hopps, L. Kropatsch, and W. O'Reilly.

The members of the Committee who retire in accordance with Rule 3 are Messrs. W. J. Bean, W. Goldring, G. T. Lane, and Sir Daniel Morris, K.C.M.G. etc. Messrs. Bean and Goldring offer themselves for re-election; the Committee nominate Messrs. H. J. Davies, Supt. Government Gardens, Lucknow, India; W. Cradwick, Agricultural Instructor, Jamaica; and A. Garnett, Temporary Assistant, Kew, for election on the Committee: one to replace the Secretary, who is ex-officio a member of the Committee. The subforemen and gardeners select as their representatives Messrs. Tidy and Joyce respectively, Messrs. Christie and Cowley retiring.

The Committee propose that a new President shall be elected each year at the Annual General Meeting.

The Auditors for the present year are Messrs. Tinley and Skan. The Committee recommend their re-election.

*Balance Sheet, 1906-1907.*

<i>Receipts.</i>		<i>Expenditure.</i>	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Balance from 1905-1906 ...	37 14 7	Secretary's Honorarium ...	5 0 0
Life Subscriptions .....	25 0 0	Postage and Stationery .....	4 8 10
Annual Subscriptions and Sales .....	17 10 9	Printing and Freight of Journals .....	32 8 6
Interest on £250 New South Wales 3½% Stock }	8 6 4	£50 New South Wales 3½% Stock and Com- mission ... .. }	49 15 0
Interest on Deposits in P.O. Savings Bank (1906) }	0 17 11	Balance 1906-1907 ...	10 17 3
Advertisements in Journal...	13 0 0		
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>£102 9 7</b>		<b>£102 9 7</b>

*Capital Account, April 30th, 1907.*

<i>Liabilities.</i>		<i>Assets.</i>	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Thomson Bequest .....	92 8 6	£300 New South Wales 3½% Stock (1924) .....	300 0 0
Life Subscribers' (248) Fund	218 8 9	Deposits in Post Office Savings Bank .....	10 16 9
		Cash in hand .....	0 0 6
	<b>£310 17 3</b>		<b>£310 17 3</b>

Audited and found correct,

W. J. BEAN, *Treasurer.*W. N. WINN, *Secretary.*GEORGE F. TINLEY, } *Auditors.*  
S. A. SKAN. }

May 2, 1907.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1907.

THE fourteenth Annual General Meeting was held as usual previous to the Annual Dinner at the Holborn Restaurant on May 27, Mr. W. Watson in the chair, about 100 members being present. The proceedings were of a very interesting character, and it is to be regretted that they were unavoidably curtailed by the shortness of the time available. It is proposed to remedy this defect for the future.

After the Annual Report and Balance Sheet had been adopted a letter from Mr. T. W. Brown of Cairo, severely criticising the Guild and suggesting that its usefulness might be greatly extended (see page 365) was read. Mr. Brown's remarks, and in particular that portion of them relating to the difficulties of Colonial Kewites, having been

favourably commented upon by Mr. J. Stocks, it was proposed by Mr. W. Purdom, who also was strongly in favour of the Guild becoming a more active body than it is at present, that a Committee of 12 be appointed to consider what might be done in the direction suggested. Messrs. C. H. Curtis, Denning, and R. A. Rolfe were opposed to any changes being made. An amendment was proposed that the present Committee consider the matter and report at the next Annual General Meeting. Mr. Purdom agreeing to this, with the proviso that a few members should be co-opted to assist, the Committee was instructed by the meeting to consider the suggestions contained in Mr. Brown's letter, and to decide whether or not in their opinion it would be desirable that the work of the Guild should be extended in any way, and if so how this might best be done, the conclusions arrived at to be laid before the next Annual General Meeting.

Mr. Dallimore called attention to the statement by Sir E. Strachey in the House of Commons that the gardeners at Kew were apprentices. He proposed as a resolution "That this meeting of the Kew Guild, composed of past and present gardeners and others employed at Kew, protests against the statement made officially by Sir E. Strachey in the House of Commons on May 23rd, that 'the men employed at Kew are not gardeners, but apprentices.' They are men of the average age of 23, who have had at least five years' professional training before entering Kew as journeymen gardeners, and their duties at Kew are the care and cultivation of the living collections of plants. They work from 6 A.M. to 6 P.M. in summer and from daylight to dark in winter; they also attend certain lectures in their own time at night after their day's work is done. They are certainly as much entitled to be called gardeners as any other men of the same age and training, and it is a misrepresentation of the facts to describe them as apprentices." This was seconded by Mr. H. Cowley, supported by Messrs. F. J. Cole and G. Bates, and adopted unanimously. It was also agreed that copies should be sent to the President and Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, Sir E. Strachey, and the principal daily newspapers and horticultural journals.

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#### ANNUAL DINNER, 1907.

THIS took place at the Holborn Restaurant, as usual, on May 27th, Mr. George Massee presided, and 120 members attended, Messrs. C. Robey (H.M. Office of Works), and J. Whitton of Glasgow being present as guests.

In proposing the toast of "The Kew Guild," MR. MASSEE stated that

it was not his intention to follow the example set by previous Chairmen at this important function, of holding up for admiration everything that was done and said and thought at Kew and by Kewites. A little wholesome criticism would, he thought, be calculated to inspire efforts in the direction of good work and reform. No doubt a great deal that was useful emanated from Kew, but he could not help thinking that the botanists were too keen to make species, and paid too little attention to matters that were of real scientific importance. He had made a lot of species himself, many of them no doubt bad ones, but he sometimes felt that he had devoted too much time to that kind of thing. Turning to the Gardens, he criticised much of the work and arrangement there. In matters of taste he disagreed with those who were responsible for the flower beds, the pruning of trees and shrubs, and the selection of subjects for conspicuous positions. Everything was stereotyped, old fashioned, or of no fashion at all. There was less nature in evidence than he thought desirable. Kew ought to strike out a line of its own instead of being, as he believed it now was, largely influenced by the opinions and fads of various old women and halfpenny journalists. Everything at Kew should be of the best, the taxpayer provided the means and therefore had a right to object to anything second rate or second hand. The Guild, which it might be necessary to point out was not exclusively a Kew concern, included among its members a large number who now occupied influential positions in many parts of the world, and who no doubt carried ideas and impressions obtained at Kew along with them. This fact should not be overlooked. If these men did not always give satisfaction, their failure might be due to the influence of environment in the early or *alma mater* stage of their career.

MR. C. H. CURRIS, in responding for the Guild, thanked Mr. Massee for the physic he had administered and hoped it would have the desired effect. As one who had taken a prominent part in the inauguration of the annual dinner, it gave him great satisfaction to note how successful in every way this annual gathering of Kewites had become. It was only when they were brought together in this manner that one realised the variety of attainments possessed by those who once upon a time were employed at Kew, as well as those there at present. He need not particularise beyond saying that not only in botany, but in other departments of science had Kewites made their mark. Then in literature, journalism, various branches of the public services, as well as in the field of scientific and practical horticulture Kewites would be found. Good as they were, however, the Chairman must not expect perfection. He welcomed the large number of members who had come considerable distances to be present that evening, and he hoped that the Guild would continue to make arrangements for this annual gathering as long as there was a Kew and Kewites.

DR. A. HENRY, in proposing the health of the Chairman, which was drunk with musical honours, spoke in his usual racy style of the qualities of Kew men, the delights of the Gardens, and the interest of a botanical or horticultural calling, and concluded with the remark that after great experience as a traveller in many parts of the world, he felt bound to say that no men were kinder or better sorts than Kew men wherever one met them, and there was no place in the world so beautiful as Kew.

During the evening an excellent programme of music was performed by the four Misses Walters, a most competent quartette, and Mr. T. W. Briscoe, whose songs are always greatly appreciated.

The following were present:—

G. Massee ( <i>Chairman</i> ).	Dear, G.	Manning, W.
W. Watson ( <i>President</i> ).	Denning, W.	McKiernan, M. P.
H. G. Cove.	Dixon, J.	Miles, A. C.
C. Lockwood.	Drost, K.	Newsham, Miss J.
C. Robey.	Dunn, S.	Nicholls, M.
J. Whitton.	Etterley, W. H.	Oliver, T.
Adamson, J.	Foden, W.	Papsdorf, P.
Arden, S.	Fraser, J.	Pearson, R. Hooper.
Ashton, F. W.	French, H.	Philp, F. J.
Aubrey, A. E.	Fritsch, Dr.	Powell, Miss.
Badderly, G.	Fyfe, R.	Preston, F. G.
Banks, G. H.	Garnett, A.	Purves, J. M.
Bartlett, A. C.	Gentil, L.	Pyman, G. W.
Bates, G.	Giles, J.	Raffill, C. P.
Beale, G. H.	Godseff, L. C.	Ressenaar, J. J.
Bean, W. J.	Goldring, W.	Richardson, J.
Benton, A. W.	Guttridge, J.	Rolfe, R. A.
Bird, F. W.	Hales, W.	Sander, F. K.
Blackburn, A.	Hartless, A. J.	Scott, J.
Blanche, H. M.	Henry, Dr.	Sillitoe, F. K.
Boodle, L. A.	Hislop, A.	Simmons, J.
Braggins, S.	Hosking, A.	Skam, S. A.
Briscoe, T. W.	Humphreys, T.	Smartt, A. E.
Brown, N. E.	Hutchinson, J.	Smith, J.
Burbridge, K. G.	Irving, W.	Spooner, H.
Butcher, F. H.	Jensen, L.	Sprigings, A.
Christie, J. S.	Johns, W. H.	Stocks, J.
Cischegg, J.	Jones, J. D.	Taylor, W.
Close, A. W.	Joyce, R. J.	Thomas, H. H.
Cole, F. J.	Kett, R.	Thomson, C.
Cooper, E.	King, H. G.	Tidy, A.
Cope, Miss G.	Klein, F. A.	Tinley, G. F.
Cousins, F. G.	Lange, A.	Tribble, F.
Coutts, J.	Lawson, A. A.	van Overberghe, P.
Cowley, H.	Lister, H.	Watson, J. G.
Cundy, C.	Little, W. B.	Weathers, J.
Curtis, C. H.	Logsdail, A. J.	White, R.
Dallimore, W.	Long, F.	Winn, W. N.
Daubanton, C.	Mackay, A.	Young, W. H.
Davy, J. Burt.		

The General Meeting and Dinner in 1908 will be held on May 25.

### THE WAGES QUESTION AT KEW.

THE agitation for improved conditions of employment which has been going on for at least five years has happily resulted in a rise of wages for the foremen, constables, and labourers, but for reasons difficult to understand the journeymen gardeners have not been allowed to participate in the improvement. This is the more remarkable seeing that the salaries and wages at Kew generally have within the last ten years been increased, whereas gardeners' pay is the same as it was twelve years ago. The duties of gardeners now employed at Kew are if anything greater now than formerly; moreover gardeners of the same age and qualifications employed in other Government gardens and parks have recently obtained not only a considerable rise in wages but shortened hours of labour. The new arrival at Kew on becoming acquainted with these facts not unnaturally feels dissatisfied, and the formation of the Kew Employees Union, the refusal to attend the lectures, and other expressions of discontent are the unfortunate results.

This question has been publicly discussed both in the House of Commons and in the Press; it is therefore due to the members of the Guild that the actual condition of things should be placed before them. On May 23, 1907, the conditions of employment at Kew were the subject of discussion in the House of Commons; Messrs. Summerbell, Duncan, Cave, and Dr. Rutherford all expressing themselves in favour of the application for an increased rate of pay. Replying on behalf of the Board of Agriculture, Sir E. Strachey stated:—

“With regard to the gardeners employed at Kew, it is a question to be considered entirely by itself. ‘Gardeners’ is a wrong name to give them because they are not gardeners in the ordinary sense. They are really apprentices learning their work, and fitting themselves for good and remunerative employment elsewhere. The position is that in 1906 and 1907 the Treasury refused to sanction an increase in their wages. These young gardeners must be unmarried and can only stay two years at Kew. This 21s. is not really a wage but a subsistence allowance. The most valuable part of their wages is the experience in scientific horticulture which they gain; they receive a course of lectures, theoretical instruction, and a leaving certificate, and this is all paid for at the expense of the country. There is the greatest competition amongst gardeners to come to Kew in order to get the knowledge to be obtained there, and also the valuable certificate which is granted to them upon leaving and enables them to get another appointment. They merely receive their salaries as apprentices; the 21s. is subsistence money and allowance for any out-of-pocket expenses. It is not paid as wages; otherwise the amount would be such as ought not to be paid, being lower than the ordinary day-labourer’s wage.”

This statement gave rise to strong protests, and at the Annual General Meeting of the Guild a resolution protesting against it was unanimously passed as reported on page 350.

Commenting upon the debate *The Standard* remarked:—"A lame reply was given to the protests of Mr. Summerbell and others against what they described as the miserable wage of 21s. a week paid to gardeners at Kew. Though defeated in the lobby, Mr. Summerbell served his purpose, and the country will note this new example of a Radical Government's treatment of State workers."

As a protest against their treatment it was resolved by the gardeners on May 28: "That we as Gardeners and not as students decline to attend any lectures given by officials or others in the Royal Botanic Gardens in lieu of wages. We desire a legitimate wage and shorter hours, leaving us free to attend lectures where we wish." Since then no gardener has attended any of the lectures.

As the result of what took place the Board of Agriculture altered the conditions of employment, reducing the age-limit to nineteen years and the professional training to four years, making the attendance at the lectures compulsory, and instead of wages "service" was to be rewarded by a "subsistence allowance." These new conditions of employment were commented upon in *The Daily Telegraph* of December 20, as follows:—

#### A COMPLAINT FROM KEW.

*To the Editor of THE DAILY TELEGRAPH.*

SIR,—I would call attention to a "Memorandum of Conditions of Employment as Gardener" at Kew, lately issued by the director, doubtless on instructions from the Board of Agriculture. Up to this time applicants must be between the ages of 20 and 25, and they must have served not less than five years "in good gardens or nurseries." This limit is now reduced one year all round. To the public it seems very unimportant whether a young man should be 19 years old or 20 when received into the Botanic Gardens, or whether he should have served an apprenticeship of four years or five. But, in fact, the matter is very serious.

Kew is now an Imperial centre of plant-culture, as well as of botany, where men qualify for positions of responsibility in all parts of the Empire. This purpose is best served when men go there to round off their training, and if any alteration was advisable, surely it should have been to raise the age for entrance. Very few boys of 19 are qualified for the responsible duties they have to perform while at Kew, and, be it observed, they are expected to have got beyond the elementary stage of horticultural training. They receive actually no instruction of that sort there. On the first morning the foreman orders them to do certain work, taking for granted that they know how it should be done. He has no time to show them. There will be swarms of applications, of



course, when unskilled boys of 19 are admitted, and in the result, if this memorandum be not withdrawn, our great English centre of scientific gardening will be degraded into a school of apprenticeship.

Another clause enacts that gardeners who have finished their course shall retire forthwith. Hitherto, while a two years' course has been the rule, it has never been a hard-and-fast one. Practically to dismiss men who have done good service regardless of its effect on their future is a cruel wrong. No private employer would be so harsh, and certainly a Government Department should not be allowed to do it. Even the Army treats its men better. It would really be monstrous to turn young men adrift, without even a roof to shelter them while they look for a place, more especially when they have been getting only 21s. a week—"the cost of subsistence," as is avowed. Labourers at Kew receive 24s. and in the Royal parks and in the parks and gardens under control of the County Council young gardeners and labourers are paid 27s. a week. Surely this is little enough for a skilled gardener.

I am, &c.,

KEWENSIS.

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#### THE MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY.

As usual about two-thirds of the lectures were given by young gardeners and sub-foremen. Lectures were also given by some members of the Staff, and others, associated directly or indirectly with Kew.

The average attendance for the Session was 39·15. On six occasions an attendance of 50 was recorded, while this number was exceeded twice. The lowest attendance on any one evening was 22. The Hooker Prize was awarded to Mr. H. Cowley, and a prize given by Mr. T. W. Brown was gained by Mr. E. K. Thomas.

A lantern has now been provided for the use of lecturers, and it is hoped that to this will be added sets of lantern-slides specially prepared for lectures.

#### *Syllabus, 1906-7.*

1906.		
Oct. 8.	India .....	Lt.-Col. Prain.
„ 15.	The British Gardeners' Association...	C. Harding.
„ 22.	Horticulture in Germany .....	H. Riebe.
„ 29.	Rotation of Kitchen-garden Crops ...	H. J. Moore.
Nov. 5.	Propagation Demonstration .....	W. Dallimore.
„ 12.	Trees and Shrubs .....	W. McLaggan.
„ 19.	Uganda .....	E. Brown.
„ 26.	Hardy Fruit .....	R. Simpson.
Dec. 3.	Gardening Education .....	W. Watson.
„ 10.	The Wild Garden .....	F. Gammon.
„ 17.	The Utility of Forests .....	E. K. Thomas.

*Syllabus, 1906-7 (cont.).*

1907.		
Jan. 7.	Fungoid Diseases of Plants .....	G. Masee.
„ 14.	Aquatic Plants .....	W. H. Morland.
„ 21.	The Genus <i>Lilium</i> .....	A. Osborn.
„ 28.	Soils .....	C. W. Mayhew.
Feb. 4.	The Relation of Botany to Horticulture .....	A. Blackburn.
„ 11.	Indoor Fruit and Mushroom Growing .....	F. H. Butcher.
„ 18.	Plant Breeding .....	H. Cowley.
„ 25.	Alpine Plants .....	E. Moosman.
Mar. 3.	Packing Demonstration.....	W. Crisp.
„ 11.	South Africa .....	T. R. Sim (Natal).
„ 18.	The Forests of N. America, Southern Spain, and Algeria .....	Dr. A. Henry.
„ 25.	Secretary's Report.	

*Chairman, W. DALLIMORE.*

*Vice-Chairman, A. OSBORN.*

*Hon. Secretary, F. G. PRESTON.*

*Assist. Secretary, J. W. WATKINS.*

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### THE LECTURES.

THE usual courses of lectures were given.

**Systematic Botany.** Lecturer, Mr. C. H. Wright, A.L.S.  
No report.

**Economic Botany.** Lecturer, Mr. J. M. Hillier.  
No report.

**Geographical Botany.** Lecturer, Mr. N. E. Brown, A.L.S.  
No report.

**Chemistry and Physics (1906-7).** Lecturer, Dr. Fritsch, B.Sc., Ph.D., F.L.S.

21 certificates were granted. The highest number of marks were obtained by L. Greening, 243; W. B. Little, 242; C. W. Mayhew and E. A. Duley, 239. Maximum 250.

**British Botany Club (1906).** Secretary, H. J. Moore.

19 certificates were granted for collections which were of equal merit.

NOTE.—The Gardeners as a body on May 28 declined to attend any further lectures given in the Gardens as a protest against the statement made in the House of Commons that the lectures were to be considered as a part of their remuneration.

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## APPOINTMENTS AND RETIREMENTS.

SIR JOSEPH D. HOOKER.—Kewites will be glad to learn that His Majesty the King has conferred the Order of Merit on Sir J. D. Hooker, G.C.S.I., C.B., F.R.S., etc. Sir Joseph was Director of Kew from 1865 to 1885. Although he is now over ninety years of age, he enjoys perfect health and still works hard at botany. The genus *Impatiens* takes up a good deal of his time.

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MR. A. W. HILL, M.A., Fellow and Dean of King's College, Cambridge, and University Lecturer in Botany, was appointed Assistant Director in August last. This post had been in abeyance since the retirement of Dr., now Sir Daniel Morris in 1898.

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MR. J. HUTCHINSON, who for some time was employed at the Herbarium as Temporary Technical Assistant, has been appointed, temporarily, Assistant for India, in the place of Mr. J. F. Duthie who is lecturing in Oxford.

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MR. C. F. BALL has been appointed Assistant, and Mr. J. W. BESANT, General Foreman, in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin.

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CHANGES have occurred amongst our journalistic members. MR. R. HOOPER PEARSON has become Assistant Editor 'Gardeners' Chronicle,' MR. H. H. THOMAS ('The Garden') Editor of 'The Gardener,' MR. F. W. HARVEY ('The Gardener') has joined the staff of 'The Garden,' and MR. H. COWLEY (Garden Staff, Kew) is assistant to Mr. Thomas.

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MR. W. C. SMITH, after studying for some years at the House of Sacred Mission, Kelham, Newark-on-Trent (Church of England), took Holy Orders in January last and is now Curate of St. Mary's, Blyth, Northumberland. It is to be hoped that he will attend the Guild dinners and act as Chaplain.

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MISS EDNA M. GUNNELL, who for about two years held the post of Horticultural Instructor at St. Petrox School, Paignton, has been appointed to a similar position at a school in Agnetendorf, Silesia.

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INDIA.—MR. JOHN CAMERON, F.L.S., has retired from the position of Superintendent of State Gardens, Bangalore, Madras, to which he was appointed from Kew in December 1873.

MR. G. H. KRUMBIEGEL, who since March 1893 has held the position of Superintendent of State Gardens, Baroda, has been appointed to succeed Mr. Cameron at Bangalore.

MR. B. CAVANAGH, who since Nov. 1899 has held the position of

Superintendent of the Agri-Hort. Society's Gardens, Madras City, has been appointed to succeed Mr. Krumbiegel at Baroda.

Messrs. F. H. BUTCHER and E. G. STROUD, members of the garden staff at Kew, have been transferred to the garden staff of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Calcutta.

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WEST INDIES.—MR. W. LESLIE resigned his position as Agricultural Instructor, R. B. Gardens, Trinidad, in October last, and accepted the position of Cocoa Expert on the Gold Coast under Cadburys' Ltd.

MR. J. W. DOWN (Garden Staff, Kew) has been appointed Assistant Superintendent, Public Gardens etc., Jamaica.

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CHINA.—MR. J. W. GILES, for nearly three years sub-foreman of the Orchid department, has left Kew to become Assistant Superintendent of the Parks etc., Shanghai.

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AFRICA.—MR. F. J. STAYNER has been appointed Conservator of Forests, Natal, in succession to Mr. T. R. Sim, who in consequence of the retrenchment policy of the department retired from the service. We regret to learn on the eve of going to press that Mr. Stayner a short time ago lost his wife and father through death.

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The following appointments have also been made:—

*Head Gardeners.*

- T. Burn, Perry Hall, Perry Barr, Birmingham.
- P. C. Christensen, Clewer Mead, Clewer, Windsor.
- W. Coutts, Learney & Cullerlie Estates, Aberdeenshire, N.B.
- H. Henderson, Brookemans Park, Hatfield, Herts.
- G. Jones, Llwynderw, Blackpill, Swansea.
- F. M. Mark, Trevisson, Flushing, Cornwall.
- W. McLaggan, Woodbastick Hall, Salhouse, Norwich.
- T. Nelson, Milne Graden Gardens, Berwickshire, N.B.
- M. Nicholls, St. Clere, Kemsing, Sevenoaks, Kent.
- H. Scholz, Kammgarnspinnerei, C. G. Schöler, Myslowitz, S.O. Germany.
- T. J. Veal, Hillsborough, Yelverton, Devon.
- W. A. Ward, Colbury House, Hillstreet, Totton, Hants.
- H. Williams, Tolvean, Redruth, Cornwall.

*Foremen.*

- J. Brown, Strathallan, Machany, Perthshire, N.B.
  - R. H. Donaldson, Culzean Castle, Ayr, N.B.
  - D. McGregor, St. Ann's, Clontarf, Dublin.
  - J. W. Miles, Welbeck Abbey, Notts.
  - W. H. Paine, Wood's Nurseries, Boston Spa, R.S.O., Yorks.
  - J. T. Selley, Blenheim, Woodstock, Oxon.
  - J. Simmons, North Mymms Park, Hatfield.
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## WEDDING BELLS.

Mr. J. W. Besant	to Miss Watt	at Huntly, Aberdeen	Aug. 7, 1907.
Mr. T. W. Brown	„ Miss Archer	„ Cairo, Egypt	Sept. 18, 1907.
Mr. F. J. Cole	„ Miss E. Scott	„ Hitchin	Sept. 4, 1906.
Mr. W. Coutts	„ Miss Henderson	„ Whiston, Lancs.	April 6, 1907.
Mr. Th. J. Dinn	„ Miss L. F. F. van de Rivière	„ Amsterdam	Aug. 3, 1907.
Mr. J. Fischer	„ Miss F. Wedekind	„ Schoeneberg, Berlin	July 25, 1907.
Mr. W. C. Fishlock	„ Miss L. de Castro	„ Tortola, W.I.	Oct. 27, 1904.
Mr. A. C. P. Gagge	„ Miss E. M. W. Smith	„ New York, U.S.A.	April 3, 1907.
Mr. J. Green	„ Miss L. Greswell	„ Cookham	Aug. 6, 1907.
Mr. F. W. Harvey	„ Miss Day	„ Chelmsford	Mar. 30, 1907.
Mr. A. Lange	„ Miss Hinge	„ Stenløse, Denmark	May 4, 1907.
Mr. W. Leslie	„ Miss S. Hill	„ Trinidad	July 27, 1907.
Mr. T. W. Main	„ Miss Frost	„ Penang	May 23, 1907.
Mr. A. W. Proudlock	„ Miss Morpeth	„ Newcastle-on-Tyne	Feb. 11, 1907.
Mr. J. P. Quinton	„ Miss Cotton	„ Bishopsgate (Within), E.C.	Nov. 16, 1907.
Mr. J. B. Shewell	„ Miss Morland	„ Street, Somerset	May 17, 1906.
Mr. T. J. Veal	„ Miss Common	„ Grampond Rd., Cornwall	Oct. 27, 1907.
Miss E. Morland,	see Shewell.		
Miss E. M. W. Smith,	„ Gagge		

## CAMBRIDGE COTTAGE.

Kew as it now exists is a sort of patchwork of various properties and residences, both civil and royal. The Palace, once the home of George III, is now a picture gallery; Hanover House, where the last King of Hanover resided, is now the herbarium; and now Cambridge Cottage, formerly the residence of the late Duke of Cambridge, has passed into the hands of the Board of Agriculture to be used as a Museum of British forest products. The small garden is to be laid out on a strictly formal plan in keeping with the building and boundary walls, the central portion to be occupied by an aquarium for hardy plants. The servants' quarters and stables, which adjoined the old "office yard," have been pulled down and the site is to be utilised for four foremen's cottages. The interior of the building shown in the photograph has been remodelled so as to make it suitable for a public museum; the exterior, both back and front, has not been interfered with.

The following description of the cottage is taken from the *History of Richmond, Kew, etc.*, by E. B. Chancellor, 1894:—

"At the present time the most important house on Kew Green is Cambridge Cottage. As we have seen, it stands on the site of Lord Bute's house, or rather, 'the house built for Lord Bute to study in.' Subsequently the residence belonged to Mr. Planta, and in 1837 it

became the property of the late Duke of Cambridge, who much enlarged and improved it.

"The cottage is a plain unpretentious brick building, much covered with ivy, and with but one small attempt at dignity, in the shape of a 'porte cochère,' extending some way on to the road. The interior of the house is delightfully old-fashioned and homely, most of the rooms being rather comfortable than luxurious; there is, however, a very fine library filled with books which are evidently meant not merely to be looked at, while the whole house is filled with portraits of the royal family in all styles from valuable oil-paintings to photographs.

"The grounds are very charming, and for a pretty and peaceful retreat from the whirl of London life, it would be hardly possible to find a more suitable or more delightful abode."

#### NOTES.

VISITORS TO KEW IN 1907.—There has been a marked increase in the number of visitors to Kew during the last few years. Last year (1906) the total was over half a million in excess of any previous year, but this again has been exceeded by over 600,000, the total in 1907 being 2,962,714. The highest number for any month was as usual in August, the lowest being in December.

WEATHER AT KEW.—Although the rainfall was not excessive, most people would say that the early part of the summer was very wet and cold. This is because nearly all the rain fell during the daytime, and it was distributed over a great number of days. The climatic conditions suited the Gardens very well, and they can rarely have looked better than last year. September was a glorious month, and owing to the absence of frosts there was a good floral display until unusually late.

	Rainfall in inches.	Temperature.	
		Maximum.	Minimum.
1907.			
January .....	·65	50° F.	17° F.
February .....	1·15	51	19
March .....	·90	69	22
April .....	3·11	72	30
May .....	1·86	80	33
June .....	3·13	74	41
July .....	1·73	79	41
August .....	1·87	78	42
September .....	·67	80	35
October .....	3·38	67	35
November .....	2·09	63	28
December .....	3·66	55	28
Total rainfall for 1907 ...	24·20	—	—

THE SALE OF KEW PUBLICATIONS (Hand-lists, Guides and Bulletins) has been placed in the hands of Messrs. Gale & Polden, Publication Kiosk, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Guide to Museum I.—After being out of print nearly 20 years the 3rd edition appeared this year. Price 10*d.* Postage 2*d.* extra. The *Bulletin* now appears regularly every month.

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THE CRICKET CLUB.—With only 6 wins, 10 losses, and 2 draws the match results were not so favourable as in 1906, yet cricket continues to flourish at Kew, the past season being both a full and enjoyable one. The Past *v.* Present Kewites match arranged for June 29 was unfortunately spoilt by a heavy storm which came on shortly after the commencement and rendered further play impossible. Arrangements were, however, made for another meeting on July 27, and this resulted in favour of the Present Kewites. The Past team was as usual got together and captained by the energetic Mr. H. H. Thomas. The Board of Agriculture were our opponents on the King's Official Birthday, Friday, June 28, at Kew, and they beat us after an exciting game. It is hoped that this also will become an annual event. Among the out-matches visits to Friar Park, Gunnersbury Park, and Messrs. Sander & Sons were, as usual, extremely pleasurable events. First place in both bowling and batting averages were obtained by F. Tunnington, the Captain and the mainstay of the team. Messrs. Etterley, Middleton, and W. Walker also did well in batting. Officers for 1907:—Captain, F. Tunnington; Vice-Captain, F. Walden; Secretary, C. P. Raffill.

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THE FOOTBALL CLUB.—Although there are a good many local clubs which can claim to have considerably improved their goal averages at our expense, football continues to flourish at Kew, and the Club has become quite an established feature of the life of the Gardens. The XI. generally contains representatives of a variety of grades of employes, a sample forward line consisting of an Herbarium Assistant, Foreman, Gardener, Garden Apprentice, and a Works Department man, and we have lately been pleased to again include our first Captain, home on leave from West Africa. As finances were at a low ebb early in the year the expedient of an entertainment was resorted to, and this produced the desired effect. Officers for 1907-8:—Captain, H. M. Blanche; Vice-Captains, D. McGregor and F. Walden; Secretary and Treasurer, A. C. Miles.

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THE TENTH ANNUAL SOCIAL GATHERING took place at the Boat House, Kew, on Jan. 11, 1907, and was in every way a success. To the remark of the *Journal of Horticulture* reporter that "many of the Kew men proved to be equally at home in dancing pumps as in clogs," we may

add that this festive occasion always makes some of those present deeply regret that they are wholly unversed in the terpsichorean art. Messrs. Adamson, Butcher, Hardie, Holtom, Moore, Preston, and Watkins contributed various enjoyable items to the programme, a spirited rendering of "Off to Philadelphia" perhaps assisting towards the migration of several Kewites to that city which occurred a little later. Messrs. E. K. Thomas and F. Tunnington deserve great credit for their efforts as M. C. and Hon. Secretary respectively. It is to be hoped that the exceedingly paternal new regulation, "members of the temporary gardening staff are required to vacate their appointment if they marry," will not be found to effect a deleterious influence upon the Social. It should be mentioned that the gatherings organised by the Employés' Union are a notable addition to the social side of Kew.

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ABOUT 50 OFFICIALS AND OTHERS FROM KEW were present at the first annual Board of Agriculture Smoking-Concert held at the Westminster Palace Hotel on January 29, and spent a very enjoyable evening. The Staff of the Board was very much in evidence at Kew on the King's Official Birthday, June 28. It was an official holiday for them, and favoured by fine weather they came down in force to Kew to engage in cricket and lawn tennis matches, a concert at the Star and Garter, Kew, in the evening, and to enjoy themselves generally. When will it dawn upon whoever arranges these matters (Mr. Nobody we presume) that although it is right enough that we should all be at our posts at Kew on public holidays, it is even more obvious that as opportunity affords we should be granted a day's holiday in lieu thereof.

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MEMBERS' QUALIFICATIONS.—In the course of the discussion which took place at the recent special Guild Committee Meeting, it was stated that the resolution adopted at the Annual General Meeting correcting Sir E. Strachey's description of the Kew gardeners had been found to carry considerable weight with the many members of Parliament who have since been canvassed in anticipation of the next debate. There is a feeling amongst the Committee of the Guild that the recent lowering of the age standard for gardeners at Kew, with the after-effect of the creation of Old Kewites immature alike in experience and in years, is a matter requiring the serious consideration of the Guild. Several who were present suggest that in the future in the interests of the older members it may be necessary for men to undergo some process of selection before they are admitted to membership of the Guild. The lack of documentary evidence as to their capabilities is particularly felt by gardeners in the public service. It was suggested that a certificate of qualifications should be issued to our members, and that it would be a good thing were the Guild to constitute itself an examining body somewhat after the manner of the Institute of Surveyors.

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PROPOSED EXPANSION OF GUILD POLICY.—At the Annual General Meeting of the Guild held in May last the Committee was instructed to consider if any alteration in the present policy of the Guild would be desirable. Messrs. Cole, Curtis, Foster, Hislop, Pearson, and Purdom were asked to co-opt. A special meeting was therefore held on Dec. 7. Members present:—Messrs. Watson (Chair), Bean, Cole, Dallimore, Foster, Garnett, Goldring, Hislop, R. H. Pearson, Purdom, Rolfe, Weathers, and Winn (Hon. Sec.). After full consideration of various suggestions the following resolution was adopted:—

“That the *Journal* shall be open to communications from members respecting their conditions of employment both at home and abroad, provided that they are considered suitable for its pages by the Committee. Also that the Guild shall more actively associate itself with movements which have for their object the general advancement of its members.”

This resolution will be brought forward at the next Annual General Meeting as the recommendation of the special committee, with a proposal that it should be submitted to every member of the Guild by special circular and that it shall not be considered adopted unless two thirds of those who vote are in favour of it.

OLD KEWITES AT HOME.—The following members of the Guild residing abroad have visited Kew during the year. Messrs. C. E. F. Allen (Rhodesia), J. Anderson (Gold Coast), K. G. Burbridge (Gold Coast), J. Burt-Davy (Pretoria), H. Dodd (S. Nigeria), W. Don (Old Calabar), E. W. Foster (Lagos), G. Pring (St. Louis, U.S.A.), J. M. Purves (Zomba), T. R. Sim (Natal), C. W. Smythe (Sierra Leone), J. L. Williams (Lagos), G. H. Cave (Darjeeling), W. A. Kennedy (Mungpo, Bengal), S. Arden (Singapore), and F. Evans (Trinidad).

Mr. Burbridge's first return on leave from West Africa was marked by an alarming incident. He was on board the s.s. *Jebba*, which was wrecked on Bolt Tail, South Devon coast, at 1 A.M., 18 March, 1907. He escaped with the loss of some baggage.

Mr. W. A. Warry, who has forsaken gardening and become the business manager of two Channel Island newspapers, was aboard the small steamer *Courier* which was wrecked with the loss of ten lives off the coast of Sark. He also escaped.

MR. J. BURTT-DAVY, F.R.G.S., F.L.S., Agrostologist and Botanist, Transvaal Department of Agriculture, Pretoria, on May 29, 1907, read a paper at the Royal Colonial Institute, Northumberland Avenue, London, on “The Agricultural and Pastoral Possibilities of the Transvaal.” The paper is published in the *Journal of the Royal Colonial Institute* for June 1907.

MR. F. J. COLE writes from Letchworth, Herts, December, 1907:—  
“You may be interested to learn that as a result of my work here I

have been asked to carry out a big scheme in the North—a thing which I believe to be quite unique. Briefly it is this:—A rich seam of coal has been found in a beautiful park near Doncaster and is being developed. Instead of the typical mining village, one is to be made as near the ideal as is possible. A thousand houses are to be ready for October next, and I have the gardens of several hundred in hand now. Each one is to be well laid out and the roads will also be planted. There will be over three miles of front fencing. This will be oak posts with a single rail overgrown by Roses. You can imagine how busy I am with my work here and all this as well, as I have to get out detailed plans for every scrap of it. I am working it all from here, only going up when I am needed.”

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MR. W. R. ELLIOTT, Assistant Conservator of Forests, Nigeria, was invalidated home a short time ago and has been in England in poor health since. It was feared that he was suffering from “Sleeping Sickness,” but we have good reasons for believing that his complaint was the usual malaria.

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“OFF TO PHILADELPHIA.”—Messrs. J. Lambert, J. Mallinson, W. Newell, A. Ogle, J. Renton, and E. K. Thomas “have crossed the Atlantic” this year and found employment in and around Philadelphia. The Kew Colony there numbers now at least eight members. America has also drawn Mr. H. J. Moore, as Propagator at the Cornell University Gardens, Campus, Ithaca, U.S.A., and Mr. Blythman, who is now in Canada.

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#### KEW GARDENS.

The world is green and the world is young, and the world is sweet to  
the core, say I;  
There's pushing of life through last year's bracken and last year's leaves  
that are dead and dry.  
They know the finger of spring has touched them, and whisper back to  
the hurrying wind  
A word of love for their growing brothers that high overhead are not  
out of mind.

The crocus stands like a queen in purple; a mystic writing upon the  
grass  
Is traced in scillas as blue as skies are before and after the May winds  
pass;  
The rooks are loud in their windy houses, with few green leaves to shut  
out the sky;  
The dark firs move in the blowing sunshine, and the tall reeds bow to  
the water nigh.

The river runs with its boats for burden, and laden barges come crawling  
down

With a cargo of stones for the bridge's building, or steam, black breathing,  
for London town.

The grassy places are gay with children, red cloaks are a-flutter, small  
feet draw nigh

To the altar of spring, and the world we live in is sweet right through to  
the core, say I.

NORA CHESSON in the *Pall Mall Gazette*.

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#### LETTERS, ETC. FROM OLD KEWITES.

ONCE more we are able to insert an interesting series of letters from Old Kewites in various parts of the world, but again and again we find that our thanks are due more to a faithful few than to our members as a body. A look through the Directory by those responsible for the *Journal* shows that there are a number of Old Kewites who must have plenty of interesting things to say but who are a phenomenally silent lot. It is really no more trouble to send a letter giving the news than to write and say that a long letter will follow next month, as some of our members have been known to do. As a matter of fact, "next month" very often resembles the unfortunate case of always jam to-morrow, never jam to-day.

Mr. T. W. BROWN of Cairo writes:—"Will you kindly place the following letter—which you may look upon as the voice of one crying in the Wilderness!—before the next General Meeting of the members of the Kew Guild. I regret that I shall not be able to be present. From the time when the Guild was first started a feeling has existed among many of its members that its usefulness might be greatly extended. During the last two or three years this has grown and found expression in various indefinite proposals in after-dinner speeches, etc. It appears to me that the time has now come when we should seriously consider whether it is not advisable to make some change in the policy of our Society. Let us first briefly review what we are doing at the present time. A yearly journal is published containing a list of the Kew Staff, a list of Old Kewites with their addresses, and letters of general interest from members in various parts of the world. The lists are useful in that they keep us in touch with friends of whom we would probably otherwise lose sight; they are also of practical use in supplying names of members to whom we can apply for information, seeds, etc. from any particular country.

"Apart from this and the fact that a sum of £10 was given to a widow, the Guild has yet done little to justify its existence. It seems to me somewhat childish for a number of men of limited means to constitute themselves a body with a 'swagger' name, to do nothing

better than sing the praises of Kew and pay each other compliments in a journal and at an annual dinner. For whatever object the Guild was started it is certain that it has grown into an influential body, and it is equally certain that it has not yet discovered to what extent it may serve the interests of its own members and those of gardeners in general.

“There are grievances among gardeners everywhere, and the fact that in no profession have the members shown less energy in obtaining better conditions does not redound greatly to our credit. At home the gardener is under-paid and ill-used as a professional man. The British Gardeners’ Association will, it is hoped, do something towards raising the Standard of Efficiency of gardeners and obtaining them proper remuneration, but the Guild ought not to be wanting in sympathy with that movement; in fact, some means should if possible be found to associate our Society with the B. G. A. The Kewite in the service of the Empire, in the Colonies and India, is at present unbefriended, and that he requires some assistance towards securing proper recognition of his services is abundantly evident to anyone acquainted with the conditions of Government service generally. Instances could be quoted of men doing most important pioneer work, travelling day by day under the most trying conditions, for less pay than that received by mechanics in the same country. It is also a well-known fact that every year men who have proved themselves most valuable servants of the Government are entering the service of foreign Commercial Companies. If the Guild would take upon itself to champion their cause, I feel sure that some attention would be paid to their just claims.

“The Guild is a great deal more to the Kewite in distant lands than it is to the man at home, and I can imagine how much stronger he would feel if he knew that his interests were being watched by such an institution as the Kew Guild has become. In order that the administration may be absolutely free in its actions, at least the Secretaryship of the Committee, and the Editorship of the *Journal* should be in the hands of men who are not now on the Staff at Kew. The Committee should take into consideration whether the *Journal* cannot be published every three months. Make it a living thing!—let it be the medium through which the grievances of Kewites can be heard! What Editor has so many sources from which he draws his information or such a list of correspondents in every country in the world, as the Editor of the *Journal* of the Kew Guild? Let the “home news” contain notices of companies started in Europe for the exploitation of rubber, fruit, and the other things in which we are interested. Make the *Journal* of value to every member of the Guild, no matter in what branch of the profession he may be engaged. Make the Committee active in the true interests of Kewites as professional men, then the time may come when we may with reason gather together at the Holborn and sing each other’s praises.”

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MR. G. H. KRUMBIEGEL writes from Baroda, December 12, 1906 :—  
 “My professional tours have taken me this year to many places—Kopurkala, Delhi, Agra, Bombay, Madras, Bangalore, Ootacamund, and Ceylon—so I have seen many Kewites, and am glad to say that all seemed well and happy. The trip to Ceylon was in connection with the Rubber Exhibition, and though I did meet a whole ‘cartload’ of Kewites—photo of Cameron, Macmillan, Proudlock, and myself forming the crew of a motor car enclosed—I had expected that some of the African and Malayan men would also have been there.

“I was glad to make Macmillan’s acquaintance, and we are all in debt to him for giving us a real good time. As you will no doubt have heard, the Show was a very fine one. I was much interested by the fine specimens of palms and rare plants in the Gardens, and great credit is due to Macmillan for the many improvements and fine keep of the place.”

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MR. J. GILES writes from Shanghai, November 20, 1907 :—“We reached Penang early in the morning, and on reaching the shore I found that I was  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the Gardens, and in three hours must be back aboard the ship. I was fortunate in finding Mr. Derry. He showed me round and was very anxious to learn *all* the Kew news. It was particularly interesting to see the Giant Orchid at home. The plant which I saw in the Gardens had just finished flowering, and, though much smaller than the one which was about to flower when I left Kew, as it had about as many flower-spikes as growths, it must have been a fine sight.

“At Singapore, though I found Mr. Fox very busy indeed, I spent a most pleasant afternoon and evening with him. Some familiar annuals, and such things as Dahlias and Roses were having a very uncomfortable time, but on the other hand the Adiantums, Anthuriums, Crotons, etc. seemed to my unaccustomed eyes wonderfully fine, and I was particularly struck by some splendid specimens of the Red-stemmed Palm (*Cyrtostachys Renda*).

“Our stay at Hong Kong was unfortunately too short to permit of seeing the Gardens, but I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Tutchter whom I found in the best of health.

“I am glad to say that Shanghai is proving to be quite up to my expectations. I like the work, and it will be still more pleasant when I have become more proficient in pidgin English.”

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MR. H. SANDERS writes from King Williamstown, Cape Colony :—  
 “Both Massot and myself are doing well here and like the Colony very much. Although the temperature often reaches 100° F. in the shade during summer we get nice cool days in between. The fruit crops and cereals all through the Colony have been better this year than for a

long time past. The great question with us is how to deal with our surplus fruit. Of course export is the only way, but means of transit will have to alter greatly before any quantity of fruit can be disposed of. At present we have no refrigerating cars on our railways, and the boats can only carry a limited quantity in their cool chambers. Still, as there are several big firms making enquiries regarding Cape fruit we hope to make a move soon.

“On coming into this country first the thing I noticed most of all was the wonderful growth of several plants; for instance, *Bougainvillea glabra* makes a shoot 12 ft. long in 6 months, and Japanese Plums make a growth of 8 ft. to 10 ft. the first season after budding. We bud Roses at the beginning of December, and in June they are strong trees ready for selling.

“It is very noticeable how many new names there are in the Present Gardeners list. It hardly seems possible that there should be only 16 fellows left who were at Kew with me fourteen months ago.”

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MR. E. W. DAVY writes from Zomba:—“Scarcely seeming a month since I arrived, but in reality over twenty months, it follows that first favourable impressions have not proved illusions. Wherein lies the fascination it is hard to say, for the country is one where few can hope for health or fortune, yet leaving out of account one's impatience of the monotony of town life, conventional restraints, and the love of adventure or sport, other vague but yet very real charms abide.

“The flora is rich and varied, yet, except in the mountains, most elusive. For a brief period preceding the wet season the plains are most pleasing, the *tout ensemble* reminding one of a fine English autumn. Our spring foliage is invariably most gorgeously coloured, while that of the autumn assumes most sombre hues; the brightness of the spring growth is enhanced by the tender sprouting grasses, while that of autumn is made more sombre by the charred remains of the bush fires.

“The floral display is rarely pronounced; one has to travel to and fro in the plains to discover how many really beautiful plants exist. The prodigality of colour association, so familiar in temperate climes, or on our mountains, is conspicuous by its absence. This is not due to very dense forest which induces all showy climbers, epiphytes, etc. to collect in the tops of the trees. The dense impenetrable forest, of which in popular imagination the whole of tropical Africa consists, is only found in a few spots in Nyasaland. The general aspect is that of a remarkably well wooded region, and trees of an inferior type abound everywhere. On closer inspection, however, one remarks that the actual growth of the trees compares badly with the scenic effect they produce. Many are about the size of a birch, with thin, dry, wiry stems and sparse foliage, and altogether very commonplace. In spite of this monotony they have a charm of their own, and are more characteristic of Africa than the hills which remind one so much of Europe. Exceptionally

fine trees occur along the water-courses. Chief of them is the African Mahogany (*Khaya senegalensis*). Sausage-tree (*Kigelia pinnata*) is showy when bearing its racemes of large blackish-crimson flowers. Acacias, clothed with barbarous spines, growing quaintly flat-topped, and generally so formal in outline as to suggest topiary work, are extremely plentiful, and for a brief period they are smothered with sweet-scented orange-yellow flowers.

“Leguminous trees predominate, and none of these are more noble in aspect or beautiful in flower than *Pterocarpus melliferus*. Some of the *Bauhinias* are also extremely showy. Epiphytic orchids are scarce, and equally insignificant, with the exception of the *Ansellias*. Neither are terrestrial species found in profusion except on the hills. The showiest and commonest plants, akin in casual appearance to the orchids, are *Kaempferia aethiopica*, *K. rosea*, and *Cadalvena spectabilis*.

“The native is a delightful study, yet the more he is studied the less he is understood. Instinctively untruthful, deceitful, greedy, yet very generous, brave in trying situations, and a coward at trifles; lazy by nature, but most patient when work cannot be avoided, he is very sociable, soon forgets any annoyance, is careless of the future, and troubled by no theories or aspirations. Possessed of a childish friendliness and gaiety, and a most interesting language, it is impossible to get at his heart. Nothing surprises him. The railway, motor-cycle, and phonograph caused him no consternation. ‘It is the European, he has a great witch who does everything he desires, so there is nothing more to be said.’ When we begin to fly, or to work wireless telephones over a thousand miles, he will not be perturbed in the least.

“Owing to absence of Mr. Purves and the Head of the Department, I have been stationed in Zomba during the last eight months, everything having devolved upon me. I have had occasional flying visits to out-stations, but as for botanising or shooting, to my sorrow, there has been no time to spare for these.

“We have just been raised to the rank of a Crown Colony, with a new Governor and a Legislative Council, so things are expected to move smartly now. The scope of this Department will probably be considerably modified and enlarged—not before it was required.

“I manage to keep in touch with a fair number of Kewites in various parts of the world, but a few more correspondents would be most acceptable.”

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Mr. J. Stocks wrote:—“I left England in July 1906 to join an expedition into the territories controlled by the Nyasa Chartered Company, Portuguese East Africa. Our party included two mineralogists, an ex-native Commissioner, and myself. Our mission was to report on the mineral and agricultural resources of the country, and I was chiefly occupied in gathering information concerning the Mangrove Bark industry, locating blocks of land for subsequent cultivation, forest

areas for the collection of rubber, and incidentally the collection of such plants as time and an unruly mule would allow.

“We made our headquarters at Ibo for several weeks; this is the seat of Government and the chief trading and export centre. German houses have acquired most of the wholesale European trade, carried on chiefly with Hamburg and Marseilles, while Portuguese and Hindu traders divide the shopkeeping between them.

“One of our first cares was the sorting of provisions, tools and travelling gear into loads and the engagement of native carriers. We travelled generally in the saddle, and had brought down four mules, a Muscat donkey, and a Somali pony from Zanzibar; the breaking in of those mules to saddle and bridle in the streets of Ibo was a spectacle to be remembered, and it confirmed native report that the mad English had indeed arrived! For fierce tireless energy under a tropical sun the mule has surely no equal.

“The chief coastal industry hitherto has been the preparation and export of mangrove bark; supplies are however nearly exhausted, and bark from dead trees is now collected. I spent some uncomfortable days and nights cruising up and down the coast in native dugouts and dhows, visiting solitary swamps and creeks; there is an overwhelming sense of desolation in these silent waterways which impresses one far more than the boundless interior. Salt-making for native consumption is carried on near the sea by evaporation on the sandy flats, and cotton cultivation on a small scale has been successfully attempted. Egyptian kinds are grown and the produce is of remarkably good quality. Up to the present the Portuguese have done little beyond the levying of taxes; their knowledge of the interior is very incomplete, and systematic agriculture on a large scale has not been attempted.

“There are large areas on the coast where cotton would succeed, as it grows there luxuriantly in a wild state; a large concession was taken up near the M'sulu River, and this will come under cultivation in the near future. I collected some orchids and various bulbs in this district for cultivation at Kew, but they were unfortunately lost when crossing the M'sulu; my dried plants were also submerged for several hours.

“After leaving the coast lands we travelled in a N.W. direction to the River Rovuma by way of Lake Nangadi. The Rovuma forms the boundary between German and Portuguese East Africa, and is the principal river of these colonies, and is navigable for a considerable distance in the rainy season. Our mineralogists followed it into a region where coal was reported; troubles then arose with their carriers, who ran away after looting the stores, and left them stranded. Carriers need skilful handling. Two boats were improvised by stretching the tents over a framework of bamboo, and all the remaining company with provisions were shipped and punted themselves for several days down the Rovuma as best they could. They arrived without accident at our



camp, but an appalling amount of tinned butter had been used in keeping the canvas watertight.

“‘Travel in Africa . . . is by no means monotonous,’ as Brown of Uganda justly observes.

“South of the Rovuma is the Makonde Plateau, covered with some hundreds of square miles of forest; it is here that the bulk of the *Landolphia* rubber is obtained and brought down by the Makonde natives to the coast. The most common species appears to be *L. Kirkii*, and preparation is of the simplest character. No control is exercised over the native collectors, and the vines are being exterminated in consequence. This forest area will probably pass into English hands, when something may be done to change native methods.

“After examining the forest areas we travelled in a south-westerly direction through a district of curiously abrupt hills into the fertile Medo country. My part of the undertaking finished here and I returned to the coast, my colleagues going on to Fort Johnson. Such in brief was our itinerary.

“To describe in detail the general aspects of Tropical Africa is hardly necessary, in view of all the interesting letters which have appeared in the *Journal*. The infinity of animal and vegetable life is staggering, and one gets a harvest of new and strange impressions, even after a flying visit. There was plenty of big game, but a long string of perspiring noisy carriers prevented us from getting near it, and so our slaughtering proclivities were held in check. Travelling is arduous work, and we all contracted malaria and other ills, but this did not seriously interfere with our work or enjoyment.

“The principal tribes encountered were the Makuas, Makondes, and Yaus; these are all peacefully disposed and mainly engaged in agriculture. Their life offers a fine contrast to that of the anæmic hordes of civilised weaklings who swarm in all our industrial centres at home. It is curious how preconceived notions have to be abandoned in the face of fact; give the native the attention and care required by domestic animals and he is discontented, moody, unmanageable; treat him with less care than one bestows on a dog and he is an optimistic and devil-may-care person at once.

“One meets with a number of ‘rolling stones’—men of all nations of whom civilisation has no need, who roam about till overcome by disease or whisky. I helped one of this ilk to bring two lion cubs aboard in a net; he was an old Heidelberger student and his price was a small barrel of Munich beer.

“Dar-es-Salaam is an imposing town, and the German East African coast generally has an air of prosperity. Patriotism and reverence are fostered, and I was much entertained by the Swahili school-books shown me by sundry youngsters. Agriculture is going steadily ahead, cotton and sisal hemp being particularly successful. Steam cultivation

has been introduced by the Government, and there are steam ginneries in operation. Some two hundred tons of Egyptian cotton were shipped to Europe last year—a relatively small quantity, but prices up to 1s. per lb. were realised.

“One of the most pleasant features of the East African route is the opportunity it affords the poverty stricken traveller of seeing something of the cities of Southern Europe and other places of interest. The voyage out and home included Lisbon, Marseilles, Naples, Genoa, Algiers, Aden, Port Said, and Zanzibar.

“Friends at Kew warned me against offering myself on the altar of the great African Devil; this may possibly hold good as regards official service there, but my own experience makes me wish to return as soon as possible; for the man who is not hopelessly domesticated and those who wish to taste of freedom and a simple life, it is difficult to imagine a more congenial outlet.”

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MR. H. DODD, of Onitsha, Southern Nigeria, writes:—“My first impression of West Africa was gained at Freetown, Sierra Leone, where the extraordinary humidity of the atmosphere—it was during the rainy season—reminded me of a plant-stove immediately after damping down. This is occasioned by the town being practically surrounded by hills, a good breeze being a rare luxury for the white population. On the hills and further inland I believe that the climate is far less trying to Europeans. After leaving Freetown the voyage is broken almost daily by calls at the various ports along the coast, and the exciting process of landing passengers and goods in the surf-boats is very interesting to the new-comer.

“Seventeen days after leaving Liverpool we arrived off Forcados, a rising port situated at one of the mouths of the Niger, and the place of disembarkation for all proceeding up-stream. After three days on a river-boat my journey terminated at Onitsha, where I learned that I was relieving a Political Official who had been Officer in Charge of the plantation for five or six years and was going on leave.

“I found that there was a small stock farm of about thirty animals attached to the place, but this has since been abandoned owing to the prevalence of tse-tse fly. The most important part of the station as yet are the experimental plots, of which we have twenty-two acres divided up into half-acre plots. On these we are trying such crops as Castor-oil, Cotton, Indigo, Jute, Ramie, Sugar-cane, Sweet Potatoes, and Tobacco. Coffee is still cultivated to a considerable extent. I shipped about ten tons of it home, together with a bag of Cacao as an experiment, and they realised good prices in the Liverpool market. There is also a good kitchen-garden in which some of the English vegetables do very well.

“With regard to the West African native, I must say that I get on

very well with him on the whole. He is fairly intelligent, and with proper supervision will do good work.

“As my first term of service drew to its close I was very pleased to hear that Don of Calabar was coming up to Onitsha to relieve me. During the week we were occupied in handing over the Station from one to the other you may be sure that the old life at Kew was fully discussed.”

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MR. E. BROWN writes from Uganda :—

“July 1907.—In April I went for a long tour in Unyoro, and immediately on returning was despatched to Jinja. The first part of my Unyoro tour was occupied in planting rubber trees by the roadside, and we have now the whole of the road from Entebbe to Hoima, a distance of 150 miles, lined with them. The rest of the time I was inspecting forests in the vicinity of Lake Albert. Altogether I enjoyed it, although not free from trials. For a fortnight, having run completely out of all other provisions in one of the big forests, I lived solely upon fowls, beans, and tea. I had some good sport, and among other beasts managed to shoot a large elephant. Two females who accompanied him charged me in earnest; they gave me a very anxious five minutes, and this is an experience I do not want again. However, the tusks were 70 lbs. and 75 lbs., and the money they brought in was most acceptable. One is allowed to shoot two elephants on each annual licence, and I hope to get another one later on.

“My duties in Jinja are to lay out a cotton plantation, and to travel about among the natives endeavouring to induce them to adopt proper methods of cultivation. Not a bad mission, but as the savage has a strong native indisposition to work, not very successful. I am only three hours distant from Ussher, and shall see him soon.

“I think it may do good to mention that men thinking of coming out here are very ill-advised to do so without obtaining reasonable pay. They may think they will have little difficulty in obtaining better conditions later on, but this is not the case, and when too late they are very likely to wish themselves back at home. I endeavoured to impress this view upon Present Kewites when on leave last year, and am exceedingly glad to hear that there is now a growing disinclination to accept the poorest paid Colonial posts.

“December 1907.—At last I have got my salary fixed up. The £50 lump increase to my present pay of £200, practically promised by the Colonial Office, has diminished to £10 a year for five years. Needless to say I am not accepting it and have resigned. In place I have a post in the Mabira Forest Co. as Senior Forester at £330 per annum, and the same leave and passage allowances. Dawe is away just now, so I must hang on till he returns.

“Many may think that £200 is fair for a start, but that is the lowest salary given to a white man, and increases do not materialise. Point out my case to them. I have been out here now four years, and have secured a rise of £10,—in nine years I shall have risen £50! In fact I beg of you to do everything in your power to stop men coming here for less than £250. If a determined stand is made by Kew that salary will be given, and it is the lowest that any one can live on comfortably in this country. Everybody else, clerks, blacksmiths, etc. gets it; why should Kew allow her men to be treated worst of all? It cannot be said that the increase was refused me on grounds of incompetence, for I have letters congratulating me on my work, and the Governor in a communication to the Colonial Office last year referred to me as being ‘quite capable of taking entire charge of the Gardens.’”

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The Government has decided to provide for the West Indian Department of Agriculture for a further period of five years terminating 1913, but the grant will gradually diminish upon a progressive scale. It is, however, hoped to obtain increased contributions from the Colonial Governments concerned, and those Kewites who wish to remain in the employ of the Department will await a settlement of the matter with some anxiety. The *Trinidad Mirror* is responsible for the statement that “We understand it is intended the Botanic Garden Curators in the West Indies of the future shall be University graduates equipped with a formidable array of theory and no experience to enable them to put it into practice. They are replacing the men from Kew who have plenty of experience which teaches them how to apply theory intelligently.” Surely this is too bad to be true.

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MR. J. H. HART, Superintendent of the Botanical Department, Trinidad, desires us to state that he is able to prove that the last eight lines of Mr. Jordan's letter, page 309, and the concluding paragraph of the obituary notice, page 329 of our last issue, are “utterly mischievous, contorted, and unwarranted.”

MR. F. EVANS, of the Botanical Department, Trinidad, writes as follows:—“In justice to the Government here I think it my duty to mention that you have been misinformed in regard to the Curator's quarters at Government House Gardens. The house has been inhabited without intermission for upwards of thirty years, and Mr. Jordan's is the only death on record. Immediately following his decease the house and surroundings were thoroughly examined and favourably reported upon by the District Medical Officer for Health.

“The late Mr. Jordan's surprising statement that the Gardens ‘had not been troubled about since poor Lunt left’ is incorrect. They are situated in the most fashionable part of the city and are much frequented by the Trinidad public, and it is very certain that the Government

would not allow them to be left untouched for three years. Moreover, the statement that 'no one knows' what the trees are is shown to be erroneous by the fact that a list of them was prepared in 1892. Moreover, they could easily have been identified if necessary from dried specimens in the Departmental Herbarium, which is available for such purposes.

"I may mention that Mr. W. Leslie had direct charge of the Gardens for several months immediately previous to Mr. Jordan's arrival."

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MR. W. SANDS writes from St. Vincent:—"You will be glad to learn that I escaped unhurt from Jamaica, where I was representing St. Vincent at the Agricultural Conference. All the other Kewites also got out safely. Although the Conference was brought to such an abrupt termination by the dreadful earthquake, I had the pleasure of meeting several Old Kewites, among them being Cradwick and Harris of Jamaica, Jones of Dominica, Ward of Demerara, and Moore of St. Lucia. We could not arrange, as at Trinidad in 1905, a special Kew Guild dinner, the forces of Nature prevented us, but I do not think that anything short of what we experienced would have prevented us holding a little 'convivial'."

"The West Indies have certainly got a big name for 'convulsions' of one sort and another; but still we manage to exist, and soon forget. Our thoughts are so much occupied with our multifarious duties that volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and hurricanes are details which distract our minds for a short time only. The chances of a sudden death are not, to my mind, any greater than in the Old Country. Life is very congenial in this part of the world as a whole, and would be still more so, if my salary was a bit higher, so as to enable me to see home at more frequent intervals. This is the drawback, for one is lucky if he sees England once in five or six years. However, I cannot complain, as I have enjoyed excellent health during the eight years I have been out here.

"I like my work, and as head of rather a large department, I get plenty of it. When I mention a few of the branches you will quite understand that I have a good deal to do and be responsible for. For instance, I have the control of the Botanic Gardens; Agricultural School and Stock Farm, where Mr. Patterson is the Resident Master-in-charge; a large Central Cotton Ginnery; the working of the Agricultural side of the large land settlement estates; Agricultural instruction work in the country districts and the Government Veterinary Department; besides which I am Honorary Secretary of the local Agricultural and Commercial Society, and Honorary Correspondent to the West India Committee.

"Present Kewites, reading these lines, who contemplate gaining appointments in tropical colonies, and wish to get on should seriously

consider beforehand the nature of the duties they are likely to be called upon to perform, and devote as much as possible of their spare time to their study. A good knowledge of the sciences applied to agriculture and horticulture is very helpful. Of course I am assuming that a sound practical knowledge has been and is being gained. Provided a man has this knowledge, that is both practical and scientific, he would soon adapt himself to the entirely different conditions prevailing in the tropics, and prove himself a useful officer, without having to plod along for two or three years working, as it were, in the dark.

"I live in hope that Kew will eventually form a special Tropical School for those who are desirous of obtaining appointments in these and other tropical countries. This is a matter I have often discussed with fellow Kewites who have been through the mill, and who have had to fight their way, and who, like myself, foresee that unless some special branch such as I have suggested is formed, other men with little or no practical training will fill important posts which could be occupied by Kew men. These would stand a much better chance of doing well if their studies were directed by experts with considerable agricultural and horticultural experience in the tropics.

"You will be pleased to hear that St. Vincent is going ahead well with her agricultural industries. The Cotton, Arrowroot, and Cacao crops are realising good prices, and everybody here is very sanguine of future prosperity. The Sea Island Cotton industry is now booming here, and has become very important. The prices obtained for our lint vary from 26*d.* to 30*d.* per lb. at the time of writing. We are producing the finest Cotton in the Empire, and as I have had a great deal to do with the establishment of the industry, I naturally feel proud of the satisfactory position attained. Our output will be about 600 bales this season, and probably double this quantity next."

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MR. E. HEALD writes from Owen Sound, Ontario:—"I have been in Canada just a year, and must say I have not had at all a bad time of it. I came out here on chance, determined to work at anything that paid. My first venture was rail-roading. I left my wife and little girl at Orangeville and lived in a car on the C. P. R., moving from place to place as the work progressed. We had fine fun after work hours, shooting and fishing, for everywhere is open for whoever cares to go. I made some good bags of trout and perch in the lakes and creeks, and for shooting we had woodchucks and hares and sometimes partridges. There are deer, bears, and wild cats round here too, but not many of them. This is a most lovely country either in summer or winter, and altogether I am well satisfied with the change. I am going up into Saskatchewan next week, all being well, that will mean five days and nights in the train."

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MR. D. TANNOCK writes from Dunedin, New Zealand, June 1st, 1907:—"I have now been here four years and feel quite settled down. I like the country and the people, and they seem to like me: at least my salary has been raised twice, which I account satisfactory.

"The remodelling of the gardens has been a gradual work, we can only do a certain amount each winter, during the summer maintenance and routine work take up all our time. Last winter I built a fernery (inside and hardy) for our native ferns, and to furnish one is an easy matter here. I sent two men with a cart to the bush about four miles away, where they could get *Todea superba*, *T. hymenophylloides*, *Hymenophyllums*, Tree ferns, etc. by the load. I also built a rockery for *Celmisias* and planted out 600 on it. There are great possibilities in our *Celmisias* as garden plants, and I am quite a Burbank inasmuch as I have at present several hundreds under observation.

"In addition to the gardens, town belt, reserves, and cemeteries, I have in hand the planting of newly acquired water reserves of about 2000 acres with forest trees. We plant Oak, Ash, Larch, Douglas Spruce, and Austrian Pine chiefly. As a sort of minor industry I take the class in Horticulture at the Technical School. I find this work keeps me up to date, is a good advertisement, and brings in revenue.

"We have a strong Horticultural Society here, and are fairly up-to-date in such florists' flowers as Carnations, Dahlias, Chrysanthemums, Narcissi, and Roses. Like true Britishers we stick to the home plants and flowers, and our climate is exceptionally favourable for the growth of all plants which thrive in the South of England.

"I am very pleased with my change from the Tropics, where I never felt at home; this is a place where both my work and the conditions of life and climate are more like England or Scotland than in any other British Colony."

MR. ALBERT GREEN writes from The University, Sydney, N.S.W. June 22, 1907:—"Even the best gardening out here is very rough as compared with England, and we have to do the best we can under the circumstances. Holidays in Australia are just as important as in the Old Country, and I am glad to say that I have lately been away. February in Sydney is always very hot and everybody who is able to gets away to the hills. I took train to Moss Vale, which is 87 miles from Sydney and stands 2200 ft. above sea-level, my destination being Avoca, only 3 miles from the famous Fitzroy Falls. The heat was unbearable in Sydney, but when I got to my journey's end I was shivering; in fact it is almost an English climate up there. There are Hawthorn hedges heavily laden with their red fruits, and the English Walnut does well: moreover, when cleared for grazing purposes the ground is sown with English Cocksfoot grass, and the Blackberry is becoming quite a nuisance in many places. It is customary to leave *Acacia melanoxylon* in the clearings as a shade tree, and as it makes a very

dense, fine round head it is certainly excellent for the purpose. At the foot of the mountain on swampy ground they grow large quantities of cabbage for the Sydney market.

"I took advantage of the first clear day to visit the Falls. They are made by Yarrung Creek leaping a precipice; the first fall is 275 feet, and the water reaches the boulders at the bottom in a fine spray after falling quite 1000 ft. in all. It is a really magnificent sight. Down the sides I found Sphagnum Moss a foot thick in places, *Todea barbara* in all stages of growth, *Drosera binata*, and *Bauera rubioides*, while *Olearia elliptica* was growing under many of the overhanging rocks. I found the tall trees I had seen from the top to be *Ceratopetalum apetalum*, remarkable by reason of its persistent red calyxes which deepen in colour with age.

"Another day I went to Meryla Vale at the foot of the mountain, where it is much warmer. One of the hills in the distance was covered with red vegetation, and on reaching it this proved to be thousands upon thousands of our old friend *Humea elegans* making such a beautiful picture that I shall never forget it. The graceful flower-heads nodding in every direction were about 8 ft. high, some being taller, and there were a few yellow ones among the red. They gave off a peculiar odour akin to that of new varnish, and somewhat overpowering. Other things which I noticed this day were some fine specimens of *Corypha australis*, the ground beneath being strewn with their fallen fruit, and covering the boulders of a creek were *Hymenophyllum tunbridgense* and some of the foliaceous lichens. In this locality I also found large patches of ground quite white with *Epacris microphylla*, and I discovered a red variety of *E. Calvertiana*.

"Having heard of a remarkable plant known as Conroy's Vine, I did not rest until I had seen it, and found it to well repay a visit. It was a fine specimen of *Piper hederaceum*, growing up the trunk of a tree for about 100 ft., and hanging down in graceful festoons. There are three main stems, one of them being quite 18 in. thick, and the plant must be of a great age."

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#### IN MEMORIAM.

##### WILLIAM B. FRENCH.

WITHIN the last seven years two Kew men, both in the prime of life, have died at Indwe in Cape Colony. The first was George J. Bean, who succumbed to dysentery in 1901, and now we have to record the loss of W. B. French—one of the best known and loved of all Old Kewites. Before coming to Kew in August 1891, he had had a varied experience in gardening, and among other places had worked in the



once famous gardens of Pendell Court, Bletchingley. His term at Kew was a long one—nearly five years—and he was, during that time, sub-foreman in three departments, the Ferneries, Orchids, and Palm House. He naturally became acquainted with many fellow-workers, but it is safe to say that not one of those who knew "W. B." did not keep a warm place in their heart for him. His health was never very robust, and it was hoped that living in South Africa would strengthen him. He went from Kew to the Municipal Gardens at Queenstown, Cape Colony, where he remained until the death of G. J. Bean above referred to. He then accepted the vacant post at Doornkop near Indwe, where he had to superintend large plantations of fruit and timber trees made by his predecessor for the Indwe Colliery and Railway Company. Subsequently, he took the plantations and farm into his own hands. He died on the 25th of February, 1907, in his fortieth year. French married a Kew girl—Miss M. Barwick—who, with their three sons, remains to mourn his loss.

#### ALEXANDER AIKMAN.

It is seldom that we have had to record the termination of a career so full of promise as that of Alexander Aikman, who died from heart failure following upon pneumonia on October 19, 1907. He was only 32 years of age, yet he had done work and achieved a position in life of which a man of twice his years might have been proud. He was born at Chirnside in Berwickshire, and received his early horticultural training at Duns Castle, where his father, Mr. R. Aikman, was for many years head gardener, after which he went to Cardiff Castle and thence to Kew. In December 1895 he went from Kew to Messrs. Pearson of Chilwell, leaving them to join Messrs. Veitch's staff at Chelsea as correspondence clerk. The great chance of his life, however, came when he was selected for a post in the office of *Country Life*. Here he rapidly improved his position, and when the *Garden* was acquired by the same firm he was appointed its business manager. Aikman was a popular and successful member of the London Scottish Volunteers. He was one of the leading shots of the corps and for several years prior to his death had conducted the "Regimental Gazette." His remains were taken from London to his native town for interment. The scene at King's Cross was most impressive. The body was despatched by the night train, and as it was being borne along the platform by his Volunteer comrades, the pipers of the London Scottish played "Lord Lovat's Lament." About 100 members of the corps attended. Aikman leaves a widow and one child.

#### WILLIAM NATION.

Leaving Kew for Lima in 1849, and not returning to reside in this country until recently, we had lost sight of this Old Kewite, who died

at Clapham on October 18, 1907, after a most interesting career. Born in 1826, it has been stated that he entered the Gardens in 1840; but we believe this to be erroneous, and that he did not come until 1848, and then as a gardener in the ordinary course. Becoming Professor at Gaudeloupe College, Lima, he discovered and classified many hitherto unknown species of animals and flowers, and was of active assistance to several eminent scientists. After 57 years spent in scientific labours he was granted a small pension which ceased directly he left Lima. We owe to Mr. Nation the introduction of *Quamoclit Nationis*, which closely resembles a gigantic form of *Ipomoea coccinea*.

#### WILLIAM O'REILLY.

Mr. O'Reilly left Kew in 1866 and became Superintendent of the Parque Cousino, Lota, Chili. He succumbed to an attack of apoplexy on January 7, 1907. He was an excellent cultivator, and the garden under his care has been described as one of the most interesting and beautiful in the world. Mr. Elwes when in Chili made the acquaintance of O'Reilly, and was much impressed by his knowledge of the native flora and by the ability he showed as a gardener in the condition of the park at Lota. He contributed several collections of seeds to Kew, mostly from cultivated plants however.

#### W. A. DUNCAN.

Mr. W. Truelove writes:—"I hear that Mr. W. A. Duncan, Assistant in the Botanic Gardens, Washington, has been dead for some years.

"I knew Duncan very well, and his career was rather a remarkable one. Entering Kew in 1847, in the early fifties he was foreman of the Palm House, which position he resigned to go to Australia when the gold-mining fever was at its height in 1854. After some years he returned to England, and when my father took charge of the Pleasure Grounds early in 1866 Duncan was employed there as a labourer.

"He was made a sub-foreman and occupied that position until 1870 when Mr. Smith, Superintendent of the Botanic Garden Washington, who had served under Duncan in the Palm House, came to England on a visit and learning that Duncan was at Kew made him an offer to go to Washington. He was employed there until his death on November 20, 1900."

#### FRITZ THEODOR BRUUN.

Born in 1835, Mr. Bruun was employed in the Botanic Gardens at Copenhagen during the late fifties. Leaving Denmark for Great Britain, he was with Lawson & Son in Edinburgh, and Low in Clapton, and subsequently at Kew, until war breaking out between Denmark and

Germany in 1864 caused him to return and fight. After gaining further experience in Spain, he became Head Gardener at Bernstorff Castle, the summer residence of the late King Christian IX, retaining this position for 37 years. He died September 29, 1906. One of his sons, also an Old Kewite, is a well-known nurseryman near Copenhagen. A. LANGE,

#### AUGUST CZULICK.

We are indebted to M. A. Ménessier for particulars of the life of August Czulick, Director of the Royal Gardens, Vienna, who was at Kew in 1870-1, and who died February, 1907.

Born in 1847, in 1870 he left Austria to gain experience in France, England, Belgium, Holland, and Germany, and had the exciting experience of being arrested as a spy in Paris at the commencement of the Franco-German war. Although quickly released he was detained there by the siege. He also visited St. Petersburg, and after returning to Austria accompanied his employer upon several tours in Scandinavia. He was greatly esteemed in his native country, and was the author of several books.

#### LOUIS KROPATSCH.

After leaving Kew in 1877, M. Kropatsch rose in his profession by degrees until subsequent to his laying out the grounds for the Agricultural and Forest Exhibition he was appointed Imperial and Royal Gardener in the celebrated Prater or national park at Vienna. He died on March 11th, 1907, being then in his 55th year.

#### LEO FARMAR.

Farmar was so well-known and liked by the older hands at Kew that his death by his own hand on April 6, 1907, at the age of 28, came as a very painful surprise. He had been at Manchester and Glasnevin Botanic Gardens before entering Kew as a gardener in March 1903. Being almost immediately transferred to the Herbarium, he remained there until January 1906, then joining an expedition to West Africa as detailed in our last issue. Since January 1907 he had been re-engaged as a temporary assistant in the Herbarium, but had just relinquished this position to work for Messrs. Elwes & Henry. As, indeed, is generally noticeable with young men who have been to the Colonies, he was exceedingly anxious to return, and would probably have re-visited Africa with an expedition organised by Sir Alfred Jones. He was a clever and promising botanist, and among other activities an expert photographer. Whilst in Africa he contracted an illness which led to blood poisoning, and there is little doubt that this somewhat affected his constitution. He was a man of very nervous temperament, studious

and alert, and very sympathetic and thoughtful for others. The following testimony to his ability and personal qualities is from the *Quarterly Journal of the Institute of Commercial Research in the Tropics, Liverpool University*, vol. 2, no. 4, April 1907:—

“By the tragic death of Leo Farmar on April 6th, this Institute suffers an almost irreparable loss. Only a few days before the sad event, the Director, in referring in his Report to Mr. Farmar’s splendid services, foreshadowed the likelihood of their being permanently at the disposal of the Institute.

“Mr. Farmar’s knowledge of botany, his personal courage, his untiring energy, his cheerful adaptability, his utter disregard of himself, and his enthusiastic zeal made him an ideal member of an expedition to unfrequented regions, whilst at home his punctilious and prompt business habits, his capacity for work, and his love of his subject, and above all his scrupulous care and accuracy, made him an invaluable assistant.

“Reticent and self-contained, he did not make friends quickly, but all who knew him appreciated his sterling qualities, and those who knew him well held him in the highest esteem personally. To them his death is a very real disappointment. He had already achieved so much, and he had the ability to achieve so much more, that they looked forward confidently to a future of exceptional brilliance and distinction for him.”

#### WILLIAM PARNELL.

William Parnell was born in 1833. He had been general outdoor foreman and general manager at Glasnevin for 38 years. He commenced his gardening work as an apprentice in Glasnevin in 1848. In April 1852 he went to Kew and worked there for 2½ years, during part of which time he was employed in the Herbarium. He was then recommended to the late Mr. Bentham to assist him in preparing his “British Flora,” in which capacity he accompanied him to Monmouthshire and collected plants; subsequently he became assistant in Bentham’s Herbarium. In 1854 he returned to Kew and remained there for some time. He afterwards returned to Ireland, and worked with the late Isaac Carroll of Ballytore, who was an enthusiastic botanist. From here he went to work under the late George Smith in the Vice-Regal Gardens, where, as in every other place, he earned an excellent reputation. These gardens had then a very good name. He then worked as foreman in many other places and eventually became head gardener to Nathaniel Hone of St. Doulough’s, which position he held with much credit to himself for 11 years, until 1869, when he came to Glasnevin as foreman, a post which he held until his death in December 1906. He had an excellent knowledge of British botany and of hardy plants, trees and shrubs. Being of a retiring disposition he brought himself very little before the public.

F. W. M.

KEW STAFF (*December 31, 1907*).

	<i>Entered Kew.</i>
Director . . . . .	*Lt.-Col. D. Prain, F.R.S., M.B., I.M.S., etc. . . . . 1905
Assistant Director..	Arthur W. Hill, M.A. . . . . 1907
Assistant (Office) . . . . .	John Aikman . . . . . 1888†
"                    " . . . . .	*William Nicholls Winn . . . . . 1890†
"          (Technical) . . . . .	*B. Daydon Jackson, F.L.S. . . . . 1900
Keeper of Herbarium and Library . .	*William Botting Hemsley, F.R.S. 1860† F.L.S.
Principal Assistant (Phanerogams) .	Otto Stapf, Ph.D., F.L.S. . . . . 1891
"                    " (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, A.L.S. . . 1884
"                    " . . . . .	*Sidney Alfred Skan . . . . . 1892†
"                    " . . . . .	T. A. Sprague, B.Sc., F.L.S. . . . 1899
"                    " . . . . .	Arthur Disbrowe Cotton, F.L.S. . . 1904
"          for India . . . . .	J. F. Duthie, B.A., F.L.S. . . . . 1903
"                    " (Temporary) . .	John Hutchison . . . . . 1904†
Botanical Artist . . . . .	Miss Matilda Smith . . . . . 1873
Lecturer (Physics & Chemistry) . .	F. E. Fritsch, B.Sc., Ph.D., F.L.S. 1903
Preparer (Herbarium) . . . . .	Miss A. Fitch . . . . . 1892
Assistant (Temporary Technical) . .	*Arthur Garnett . . . . . 1903†
"                    "                    " . .	Thomas Ford Chipp . . . . . 1906†
Assistant (Jodrell Laboratory) . . .	Leonard Alfred Boodle, F.L.S. . . 1904
Keeper of Museums . . . . .	John Masters Hillier . . . . . 1879
Assistant (Museum) . . . . .	*John Henry Holland, F.L.S. . . . 1895†
Preparer . . . . .	George Badderly . . . . . 1880
Curator of the Gardens . . . . .	*William Watson, A.L.S. . . . . 1879
Assistant Curator . . . . .	*William Jackson Bean. . . . . 1883†
Clerk of the Works . . . . .	Justin Allen . . . . . 1879
Foremen:—	
Herbaceous Department . . . . .	*Walter Irving . . . . . 1890†
Arboretum . . . . .	*William Dallimore . . . . . 1891†
Tropical Department . . . . .	*Charles P. Raffill . . . . . 1898†
Decorative Department . . . . .	*Arthur Osborn . . . . . 1899†
Temperate House . . . . .	*William Taylor . . . . . 1902†
Storekeeper . . . . .	*George Dear . . . . . 1884
Sergeant-Constable . . . . .	Charles George Norris . . . . . 1896
Packer . . . . .	William J. Crisp . . . . . 1877
Medical Officer. . . . .	*L. C. Burrell, M.A., M.B., B.C. . . 1899

† Entered as a young gardener.

## SUB-FOREMEN.

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Department.</i>	<i>Entered Kew.</i>	<i>Previous Situation.</i>
Adamson, J. . . . .	Herbaceous . . . . .	Jan. 1905 . .	Southwick Ho., Dumfries.
Blanche, H. M. . . . .	Decorative . . . . .	Feb. 1907 . .	Veitch & Sons, Coombe Wood.
*Christie, J. S. . . . .	Ferrieries . . . . .	Nov. 1903 . .	Hyde Park, W.
Cousins, F. G. . . . .	Palm House . . . . .	June 1906 . .	Maryfield Ho. Gds., Exeter.
Dines, J. H. . . . .	Propagating Pits. . . . .	Aug. 1902 . .	Essex C. C., Chelmsford.
Dixon, J. . . . .	Arboretum. . . . .	Aug. 1904 . .	Tregothnan Gdns., Truro.
Kidd, H. . . . .	Temp. Ho. Pits . . . . .	Apr. 1904 . .	Ashfold Gdns., Handcross, Crawley.
Little, W. B. . . . .	Decorative . . . . .	July 1906 . .	Perkins & Sons, Northampton.
Miles, A. C. . . . .	Orchids . . . . .	Feb. 1906 . .	Charlesworth & Co., Bradford.

SUB-FOREMEN (*continued*).

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Department.</i>	<i>Entered Kew.</i>	<i>Previous Situation.</i>
Preston, F. G. . .	Herbaceous . . .	Aug. 1904..	Oatlands, Warborough.
Purdom, W. . . .	Arboretum . . .	Aug. 1902..	J. Veitch & Sons, Ltd.
Tidy, A. . . . .	Decorative . . .	Sept. 1905..	J. Veitch & Sons, Feltham.
Tunnington, F. . .	Temperate House	Feb. 1905..	Botanic Gardens, Oxford.

## GARDENERS.

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Entered Kew.</i>	<i>Previous Situation.</i>
Aubrey, A. E. . . . .	Dec. 1906..	Hatfield House, Hatfield, Herts.
Bale, H. . . . .	July 1906..	Forthampton Ct. Gdens., Tewkesbury.
Band, R. . . . .	Apr. 1906..	Berwick House Gardens, Shrewsbury.
Beale, J. H. . . . .	Mar. 1907..	Norton Nurseries, Norton on Tees.
Benton, A. W. . . . .	Apr. 1907..	Chelsea Physic Garden.
Bird, F. W. . . . .	Apr. 1907..	Datchet Lodge Gdns., Windsor.
Blackburn, A. . . . .	Apr. 1906..	Underscar, Keswick.
Cartwright, T. . . . .	Nov. 1905..	Picton Castle Gardens, Haverfordwest.
Cischegg, J. . . . .	May 1907..	Kew Nursery, Richmond.
Clacy, C. S. . . . .	Jan. 1906..	North Court, Finchampsted.
Close, A. W. . . . .	Dec. 1906..	Christowe, Minchinhampton, Stroud.
Collins, J. . . . .	Aug. 1904..	Trained at Kew.
Daubanton, C. . . . .	Apr. 1907..	Utrecht University.
Davis, H. K. . . . .	Sept. 1907..	Trained at Kew.
Dodd, W. G. . . . .	Nov. 1905..	Berrow Court, Edgbaston.
Duley, A. E. . . . .	Mar. 1906..	Codicote Lodge, Welwyn, Herts.
Dunk, W. . . . .	Feb. 1902..	Trained at Kew.
Feltham, E. . . . .	Dec. 1907..	Shirley Nurseries, Southampton.
Field, F. W. . . . .	May 1907..	Arley Hall, Northwich.
Foster, J. T. . . . .	May 1907..	J. Veitch & Sons.
Fyfe, R. . . . .	Mar. 1907..	Durris Ho. Gdns., Drumoak, Aberdeen.
Etterley, W. H. . . . .	Mar. 1907..	Glenart Castle Gdns., Arklow.
Gill, R. . . . .	July 1907..	Elveden Hall Gdns., Thetford.
Green, Harold . . . . .	Dec. 1907..	J. Veitch & Sons.
Hardie, A. . . . .	Oct. 1906..	View Mount, Stonehaven, N.B.
Jensen, L. . . . .	Apr. 1907..	Ardmore Gdns., Isleworth.
Johns, W. H. . . . .	Feb. 1907..	Low & Co., Enfield.
Joyce, R. J. . . . .	Sept. 1906..	Hyde Park, W.
Kett, R. . . . .	Oct. 1904..	Englefield Gardens, Reading.
King, H. G. . . . .	Apr. 1907..	R. Veitch & Son, Exeter.
Klein, F. A. . . . .	Dec. 1906..	Rasmussen's Nurseries, Enfield, N.
Koopman, A. . . . .	Sept. 1907..	Firs Nursery, Edmouton.
Leach, R. O. . . . .	Dec. 1907..	Low & Co., Enfield.
*Long, F. R. . . . .	June 1905..	Hillier & Sons, Winchester.
Mayhew, C. W. . . . .	Mar. 1906..	Wheatlands, nr. Edenbridge.
McFarlane, J. . . . .	Sept. 1907..	Botanic Gardens, Glasgow.
Middleton, C. H. . . . .	Dec. 1906..	Dalham Hall, Newmarket.
Oliver, T. . . . .	Dec. 1906..	Drumlanrig, Thornhill, Dumfriesshire.
Palmer, H. R. . . . .	Sept. 1907..	Trained at Kew.
Pyman, G. W. . . . .	Dec. 1906..	25, High Street, Maldon.
Ressenaar, W. J. . . . .	May 1907..	Kew Nursery, Richmond.
Richardson, J. . . . .	Oct. 1906..	Brackenburgh T'wr, Calthwaite, Carlisle.
Scott, J. . . . .	Mar. 1907..	Beaufront Castle Gdns., Hexham.
Smart, A. E. . . . .	Apr. 1907..	Castle McGarrett Gdns, Claremorris, Mayo.
Smith, J. T. . . . .	Apr. 1907..	Ditchlet Gens., Enstone.
Stirling, E. . . . .	Feb. 1906..	Letham Grange, Arbroath, N.B.
Van der Voet, C. . . . .	Oct. 1907..	Kew Nursery, Richmond.
Walden, F. . . . .	Oct. 1905..	Sander & Sons, St. Albans.
Weber, A. . . . .	June 1907..	Bause's Nursery, South Norwood.
White, R. . . . .	May 1906..	Warley Place Gdns., Gt. Warley, Essex.
Woolley, H. M. . . . .	Jan. 1906..	Low & Co., Enfield.

## 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>
*Abbott, James M. . . . .	Sept. 1898 ..	83 High St. South, Rushden, Northants.
Adams, R. . . . .	April 1903 ..	St. Joseph's Hospital, Burlington Lane, Chiswick.
Aggett, Walter H. . . . .	June 1888 ..	Supt., Public Gdns., Bermondsey, S.E.
Allan, William . . . . .	Aug. 1851 ..	Holywood, Co. Down, Ireland.
*Allard, Edgar . . . . .	Aug. 1899 ..	F., Bot. Gardens, Cambridge.
*Allen, C. E. F. . . . .	Feb. 1904 ..	Conservator of the Victoria Falls, Rhodesia.
*Anderson, J. . . . .	Oct. 1905 ..	Curator, B.S., Tarkwa, Gold Coast.
Archer, Sydney . . . . .	Mar. 1895 ..	Orkney Cottage, Taplow, Bucks.
*Arden, S. . . . .	June 1900 ..	c/o Pertile & Co., Singapore.
*Armbrecht, Otto . . . . .	Jan. 1898 ..	Derneburg, Prov. Hanover, Germany.
Armstrong, James . . . . .	Mar. 1893 ..	
*Armstrong, Robert . . . . .	Oct. 1897 ..	170 Mutual St., Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
*Arnold, George . . . . .	Oct. 1894 ..	Florist, Dunboyne, Co. Meath.
Arthur, Alec . . . . .	April 1899 ..	Rhidorroch Forest, Ullapool, N.B.
*Ashton, Frank W. . . . .	May 1885 ..	116 Hewitt Rd., Haringay, N.
Astley, James . . . . .	Nov. 1898 ..	Wortley Hall, Sheffield.
Attenborough, F. . . . .	Feb. 1896 ..	H.G., Annesley Ho., Villa Rd., Nottingham.
Augull, Karl . . . . .	July 1902 ..	Mai Nursery, Nowotscherkask, Russia.
*Auton, William J. . . . .	Feb. 1897 ..	H. G., Brougham Hall, Penrith.
Avin, Charles W. . . . .	Oct. 1894 ..	
*Badgery, R. . . . .	Aug. 1906 ..	Asst. Cur., R. B. Gdns., Calcutta, India.
Baggesen, Niels . . . . .	Dec. 1900 ..	N., Albany Road, Cardiff.
Bailey, Thomas . . . . .	Sept. 1892 ..	Ravenscourt Park, W.
Baker, H. J. . . . .	Mar. 1905 ..	Leonardslee Gdns., Horsham.
Baker, James . . . . .	1876 ..	H. G., Begbrook House, Frenchay, Bristol.
Baker, John Gilbert, F.R.S., F.L.S. . . . .	Jan. 1899 ..	3 Cumberland Road, Kew.
Baker, William . . . . .	Dec. 1887 ..	Curator, Bot. Gardens, Oxford.
*Ball, C. F. . . . .	Aug. 1903 ..	Asst., Royal B. Gdns., Glasnevin, Dublin.
Banks, G. H. . . . .	Mar. 1906 ..	F., Botanic Gardens, Cambridge.
*Barker, Michael . . . . .	Mar. 1884 ..	Sec., "American Florist" Co., Chicago.
Barnes, Richard . . . . .	Mar. 1871 ..	Curator, Public Gardens, Saltburn-by-Sea.
*Bartlett, A. C. . . . .	May 1898 ..	H. G., Pencarrow, Bodmin, Cornwall.
Barton, Robert . . . . .	June 1890 ..	
Bass, Edward . . . . .	Mar. 1899 ..	F., Sander & Sons, St. Albans.
Bass, Thomas . . . . .	Mar. 1899 ..	Dairy Cottage, Kew.
Bates, Frederick . . . . .	Oct. 1874 ..	H. G., Calke Abbey, Derbyshire.
*Bates, G. . . . .	Feb. 1904 ..	F., Lotherton Hall Gdns., Aberford, Leeds.
Batters, Frederick H. . . . .	Feb. 1891 ..	F., Holker Hall, Cark in Cartmel, Lancs.
Baum, Jacob . . . . .	July 1900 ..	N., Pallud sur Vevey, Switzerland.
*Baumann, Ludwig . . . . .	Mar. 1902 ..	1366 Lucretia Ave., St. Louis, Mo., U.S.A.
Baumgardt, Hilding . . . . .	Mar. 1902 ..	
Beatty, E. J. . . . .	Nov. 1905 ..	F., Barr & Sons, Long Ditton, Surrey.
Beck, Joseph . . . . .	Oct. 1870 ..	Upper Hale, Farnham, Surrey.
*Behnick, A. . . . .	Dec. 1906 ..	c/o E. Behnick.
*Behnick, Eric . . . . .	July 1894 ..	F., Roy. Bot. Gardens, Dahlem, Berlin.
*Benbow, Joseph . . . . .	Sept. 1884 ..	H. G., La Mortola, Ventimiglia, Italy.
Bennett, William H. . . . .	May 1880 ..	H. G., Menabilly, Par, Cornwall.
Benzon, Josef von . . . . .	June 1885 ..	(Temp.) Salzwedel, Altmark, Germany.
*Besant, J. W. . . . .	June 1905 ..	Royal B. Gdns., Glasnevin, Dublin.
Bevan, Henry . . . . .	April 1888 ..	St. Kilda, Victoria, Australia.
Bleil, Frederick . . . . .	May 1885 ..	Germany.

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