

writers, is, as the great Lord Bacon observes of it, "one of the purest of human pleasures." We indeed rejoice to find this Society so appreciated and encouraged as it now is, for we are informed that ten new members, who were proposed at the former meeting, were elected on Monday; twenty-six were nominated as candidates for admission, who were principally from among the gentry and clergy of the county. The practical gardener, who is also admitted, must find it his interest to join a society like this, where his exertions are rewarded, and his merit is made known; for we may say, in the lines of Cowper:—

"What we admire, we praise; and when we praise,
Advance it into notice, that, its worth
Acknowledged, others may admire it too."

(*Ipswich Journal*, August 2.)

ART. VI. *Provincial Gardens.*

BAGSHOT Park; H. R. H. the Duke of Gloucester. (May 15.)—The situation of this residence is flat, the soil poor, and there is little or no distant prospect. Fortunately the ground is dry, a circumstance favourable to making walks; and there is a considerable breadth of wood, partly natural, as a scene for conducting the walks from one glade to another, and these glades are ornamented and planted with rare and showy shrubs and flowers. The merit of the place consists entirely in these ornamented and enriched glades and walks. The house is a plain old building, of no interest in an architectural point of view, and only noticeable on account of some magnolias, passion-flowers, myrtles, pomegranates, and climbing, many-flowered, ever-flowering, and Greville roses, which are trained against it. Looking from the entrance front to the right, a very fine old oak meets the eye; to the left, some fine specimens of Cornish elm, with very straight trunks and few branches, the tallest 80 ft. high, and one of the largest silver firs in England, 110 ft. high. The Cornish elm is readily known at this season, by being the latest of coming in leaf.

The flower-garden of Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester, which Mr. Toward has measured and mapped purposely for this notice (*fig.* 116.), is entered through a very well designed and admirably executed close rustic gate (*a*) and arbour trellis walk (*b*). Passing under some immense beech trees, the first striking feature is the rosary (*c*), which consists of a very complete collection of dwarf plants, in digged groups or masses, on a surface of turf, surrounded by a shrubbery of evergreens. The plants are exceedingly well managed, and flower, as we have been informed by several persons, with greater vigour than roses do almost any where. The cause of this is, their being planted in a loamy rich soil, the plants not too much crowded, cut down at every winter's pruning to within a few inches of the soil, and taken up and renewed every six or seven years. When the flowering season is over, the stools, as they may be called, throw up the most vigorous shoots, which, with the exception of one here and there, which overtops the rest, and injures the tufted outline of the masses, are allowed to perfect their leaves, and ripen their wood. This, as Mr. Toward observed, must greatly strengthen the roots, and is, no doubt, the principal reason why they grow so vigorously the following year, as in a great measure to defy the attacks of the aphides.

The next leading feature in this garden is an extensive compartment (*d*) laid out in masses of showy herbaceous plants, edged with box, and separated

by gravel walks. There is an arboretum (*e*), consisting of trees and shrubs of the rarer sorts, scattered singly over a lawn somewhat varied in surface, and intersected by a gravel walk; also an American garden on turf (*f*), like the rosary, in very great vigour and beauty. Some of the groups are devoted to all the species that can be got of one genus, and others to all the varieties that can be got of one species. The collections of rhododendrons, azaleas, andromedas, vacciniums, hardy ericas, and magnolias are very complete; rhododendrons and azaleas, indeed, abound in various parts of the garden, and, as they become too thick, are thinned out and distributed in the woods, as substitutes for the laurels and other under-wood now there. The surface soil of these woods being a soft, black, peat-like material, the rhododendrons have already sown themselves, and in a few years they will cover acres, as they already do at Caen Wood and Fonthill. It seems to be a part of the plan of management at Bagshot, to distribute exotic trees over the margins of the native woods, and so, gradually, to give them a highly enriched and botanical character.

REFERENCES.

a, Entrance from the mansion.

b, Arbour trellis-work, in the rustic manner.

c, Rosary; beds on turf.

d, Herbaceous garden; the beds on gravel, with box edgings.

e, Arboretum.

f, The American ground; the beds on turf.

g, Exotic flower-garden; geraniums, fuchsias, salvias, &c., in beds and in baskets of wirework, on turf.

h i k, Covered seats, in the rustic style.

l, Dutch garden. (For its details see fig. 117.)

m, Area, for setting out the green-house plants.

n, Avenue leading to the grand conservatory.

o, Reserve-garden.

p, Forcing and propagating house.

q, Potting shed.

r, Frames and pits for forcing and propagating.

s, Working shed, and stores of garden materials.

t, Grove, containing some fine specimens of very large forest trees.

u, Beds for masses of flowers of various sorts, one sort only in a mass.

v, Masses of dahlias.

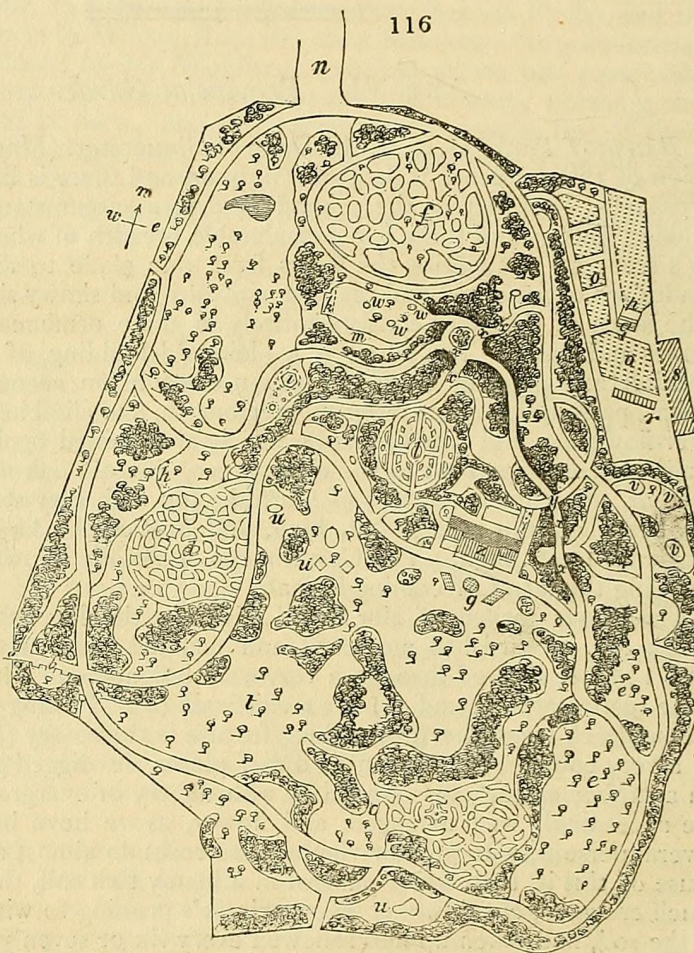
w, Rustic vases for flowers, in the Dropmore manner.

x, Walks among steep banks of rockwork, and large masses of rock.

y, Bridge in the rustic manner, to carry one walk over another.

z, Green-house, with horizontal trellis, covered with rare creepers on the outside of the front.

§, Forest trees and evergreens.

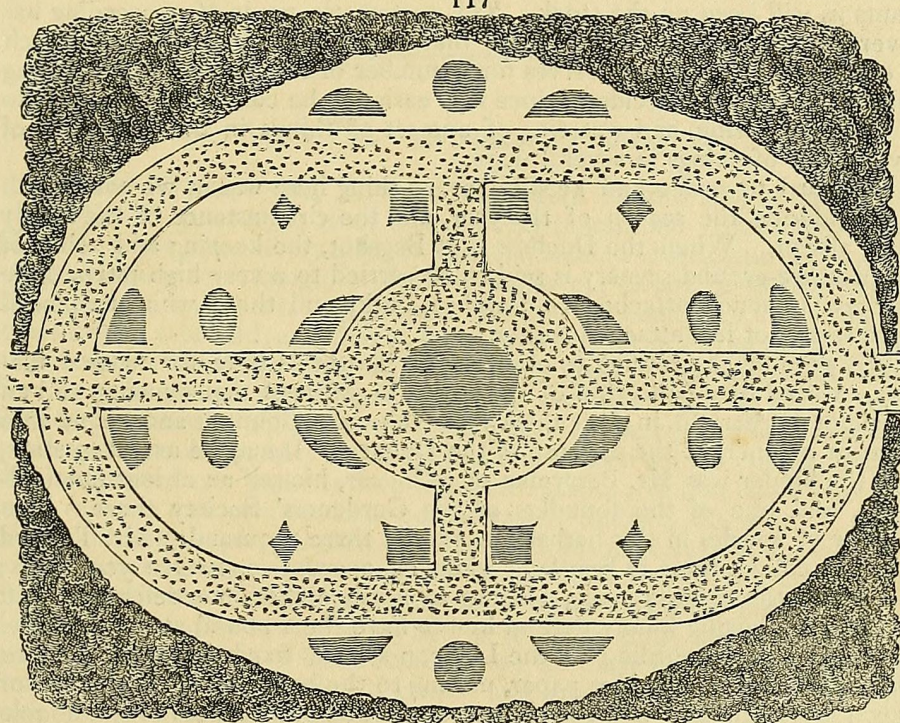


In a mixed flower-garden of trees and shrubs with baskets of flowers, hardy and exotic (*g*), there is a range of green-houses, full of showy plants in flower, and arranged in a manner well deserving general imitation in the

management of moderate collections, viz. the broadest-leaved plants are commenced with at one end of the house, and the narrowest-leaved ones at the other; the next broadest and the next narrowest are proceeded with from both ends, till the collection is joined where both sizes of leaves have merged into the medium size. When it is considered that in the winter time there are not many green-house plants in flower, and that their chief beauty at that season depends on their leaves, it will easily be conceived that this mode of arrangement produces considerable effect. It is also, as Mr. Toward informed us, better for the plants in point of watering, sun, and air. Interspersed with the general collection of green-house plants, were some fine specimens of stove plants, bulbs, and hardy plants, brought into flower in the reserve hot-house. Among these the *Schizanthus* was the most conspicuous. Against the end of these green-houses is a *Chimonanthus fragrans*, which has ripened seeds; and in front is a *Fuchsia gracilis*, which has stood two winters without any covering, and flowered luxuriantly during summer.

There are, in different spots, some exceedingly well executed covered seats in the rustic style (*h i k*); in one of them (*k*) the seat is formed of a collection of specimens of different sorts of wood grown in the gardens or park. There is a Dutch garden recently formed (*l*); it has a basin and fountain in the centre, surrounded and intersected by gravel walks, with twenty-four beds on grass, for growing the more choice florist's flowers in masses. (*fig. 117.*) There are an area for setting out the green-house

117



plants (*m*); arbours in different situations, as in the centre of the rosary and herbaceous garden, &c., covered with twiners; a number of rustic vases, for containing plants, in the Dropmore manner; and a handsome architectural orangery, apart from this garden, in the wood. It is approached by a noble avenue (*n*), on a moderate ascent; and, in looking from the conservatory, five avenues, diverging in different directions through the descending wood, add greatly to the dignity of the scene. The orange trees are in excellent health, and covered with fruit and flowers.

What supports the perfect keeping of the whole is, a large reserve or nursery garden (*o*), containing several pits and frames, in which Mr. Toward carries on some professional practices which deserve to be better known, and of which we hope he will favour us with some account. Of these, the first that occurs to our recollection is his mode of piping, in March, the grass of the pink plants that have been forced in the past winter, and flowering the plants so produced in the September and October following. This practice, which we never before heard of, supplies much beauty to the flower-garden at a season when flowers are becoming scarce, and when there is scarcely any blossoms that are not yellow. Mr. Toward has large flowers of *Hydrangea* in pots of the smallest size, and the manner in which he procures these is as follows:— In April or May, he takes off the points of such young shoots as he judges, by feeling them, will produce flowers; these he strikes in a moist heat in those very small pots called thumbs; they root in a short time, when he transplants them into sixties, in which they flower in great luxuriance, forming a corymb, sometimes nearly a foot in diameter, and not more than 5 or 6 in. higher than the pot. *Lobelia erinoides*, struck from cuttings, and shifted from one pot into another, beginning with the smallest-sized pots, becomes a large and vigorous plant, either trained to a rod, or allowed to trail or hang down from an upper shelf, or a vase or rustic basket in the open air, and covered with its fine deep blue flowers during the whole summer.

In renewing rare plants by propagation, Mr. Toward takes one genus or natural family, as *Proteaceæ*, for example, at a time, and strikes as many plants as will keep up the stock. This systematic mode of proceeding has several advantages; among others, that of diminishing labour, inasmuch as one mode of treatment serves for a number of cuttings; and diminishing risk from neglect or accident, since it is easier to be correct in attending to the shading, airing, and watering of one set of things in one way, than of several sets of things in several ways.

In regard to order and keeping, every thing here was as we could wish it, considering the season of the year, and the circumstance of the family being absent. When the Duchess is at Bagshot, the keeping and polish of the pleasure-ground scenery is said to be carried to a very high pitch. The Duchess is much attached to Bagshot Park, and those who are placed there seem not less attached to her.

We were much gratified to observe Mr. Toward's taste for natural history, evinced by a collection of specimens in different departments, and an excellent herbarium in four thick folio volumes, mounted and bound in a superior manner, at the expense of the Duchess. It may be useful to state, that the binder was Mr. Perryman of Windsor, himself an ardent horticulturist, and one of the founders of the Gardeners' Society there. The number of species in this herbarium exceed three thousand. Mr. Toward began to collect them in Scotland when an apprentice, twelve years ago; and, about three years since, wishing to arrange them for reference, and the Duchess having kindly desired him to have them bound at her expense, he classed them according to the Linnean system, fixed them with gum to leaves of drawing cartridge paper, pasting to the back of each leaf a leaf of brown blotting paper, and round the margin of both surfaces of the double leaf so formed strips of cartridge paper. These strips rather more than compensate for the thickness of the dried specimens; so that when the leaves are bound up, their edges cut, and the book shut close, the external air is excluded, and the appearance as neat as that of any printed volume. A better mode of forming a specimen book we have never before seen. We should have preferred the Jussieuean mode of arranging the specimens, but Mr. Toward very properly preferred that of his time. The truth is, the natural system and its advantages are scarcely yet known even to the very first gardeners.

The kitchen-garden here only deserves notice for the sake of expressing our regret that a very excellent practical gardener, Mr. Smith, has not a more favourable scene for his operations. We saw, however, some good crops, and some excellent points of culture; among the latter, that of sowing all the small seeds in drills, the soil being well stirred between the rows in the early part of the summer. To insure a crop of onions, they are sown thick in autumn, generally in September, and transplanted in rows, 6 in. apart, and 3 in. distant in the row, in March or April. In transplanting, the bulb must be left above ground, and only the fibres made fast in the soil; otherwise the bulb will never swell. When it is attempted to transplant any of the fusiform-rooted esculents, as turnips, carrots, parsneps, beets, &c., the same principle should be attended to, and only the tip of the root made fast with the dibber, and all the upper part left perfectly loose. Asparagus is planted in single rows, 4 ft. apart, or, in other words, one row in a bed, and grows to an enormous size. Here, and at various other places of Middlesex and Surrey which we called at in this excursion, we found Bishop's Early Dwarf Pea in vigorous growth, and very much approved of. Old reed mats are laid down over beds of endive, and found to blanch them in a very perfect manner. The hand-glass fly-trap (Vol. II. p. 151.) is used both here and in the flower-gardens with perfect success; and in both gardens it has been found that mice are much more readily caught by the 4th figure trap, well known to gardeners, when it is baited with an acorn, than when it is baited with a pea or a bean, as is usually done.

ART. VII. *Domestic Economy.*

BRITISH WINES.—Sir, Your correspondent on the subject of British wines (Vol. II. p. 485.) is most tormentingly tantalising. He scouts poor Mr. R.'s wines; has a sly slap at the Caledonian Horticultural Society; assures us he is something of a chemist; raises our hopes, by stating he has had nearly twenty years' experience, and that his family are now drinking wines twelve years old; and, finally, leaves us in the lurch, for he neither communicates his name [he does, see p. 486.], nor gives us the least information how to make wine. My experience is very limited; but, like him, I have studied M'Culloch; and, as he very justly observes, have obtained from that gentleman's book the only rational ideas I have been able to collect. I find, the best wine I can make is from immature grapes; in that state they ferment rapidly, and communicate no bad taste. Indeed, the wine, if made with good lump sugar, is nearly tasteless; but flavour can be communicated to suit various tastes. I have racked some on the lees of fine claret, and others on the lees of Madeira, adding some bitter almond or peach kernels. The most successful British wine, but, at the same time, the most extravagant, is the imitation of brisk champagne; its extreme briskness, indeed, sometimes breaks the bottle. I cannot yet succeed in giving this the true taste; but, I am disposed to believe it may be done, by putting into the cask some few young cones of the spruce fir. These are extremely aromatic, and, at the same time, have a little taste of turpentine, which, I think, I can detect, in a small degree, in true champagne. If the wine I am making this season prove as good as usual, I shall add the cones next summer. I once tried the leaves and tendrils, but could never get the wine fine; it however made most capital vinegar, but the body of the wine was so sound, that it required nearly two years' exposure in a cask, against a south wall, before it was fairly converted into vinegar, and then it proved clear. I believe that grapes from old vines will be better than from young vines, at least I fancy I find a difference. I do not pretend to say that I have made wines equal to