

*Rose Insects; Effect of Liquid Manure on Roses; and continuous blooming kinds.*—Allow me to thank you for the explanation given in your Leading Article of the 19th inst. to a fact which has formerly much perplexed me. I had, I suppose, like many others, been struck by the observations made in your Paper with reference to the "snags." I adopted the suggestion, and with the most marked benefit; but in the course of last summer I had occasion to cut an old stem of a transplanted *Brennus* Rose, which had suffered from removal, and seeing one of the holes, for which I keep a constant look out, at the end of the piece which I was about to remove, I split it open, expecting to find, as usual, one of my enemies of the maggot race. To my surprise a shining black fly made his escape, and at the bottom of the boring I found at least 100 or so of aphides. I was puzzled to think what could be the connection between them, and also puzzled by the appearance of the aphides, as they were more like the fly which infested the Spruce Fir a few years ago than the common Rose aphid. Your notice fully explains the whole affair, and accounts for the appearance of the aphides. Allow me, however, to question the soundness of giving up the original advice which you were the means of conveying to us. I for one shall rebel against the advice of 1850 in favour of that of 1849; and allow me to suggest that, at all events, there are hundreds of snags, too small for your fly or for aphids, which harbour maggots and which should be cut off. Your friend, if watched a little more narrowly, will be found I think to burrow in any dead wood—Ash poles (to which I tie my tall Roses), Scarlet-runner sticks, or Rose wood of the second or third year's growth, the thickness of one's little finger; but pray do not let him be made the protector of the whole race of maggots which may be found in the thin small twigs of Roses, the white Provins, for instance, especially. I tried liquid manure last year with Roses; the result of my experiments was, that old large plants, just coming into bloom, were amazingly improved by it, and enabled to open, when I think that without it they would have failed. *Lamarque*, *La belle Parabere* (June), *Solfaterre*, *Celine* (June), were the trees which I watched especially; but in the case of young, lately-planted trees, not in bloom, I did great mischief to them by applying liquid manure. The dry hot summer may have partly caused the failure in that case. A correspondent of yours wishes to know of Perpetuals for lengthened blooming. I find the best of mine to be some selected from Wood's (of Maresfield) catalogue in the class of Noisettes. *Lamarque*, *Solfaterre*, *Luxembourg*, against a wall; the two former are splendid. Liberal feeding and pruning keep these going from May or June to November. I cut *Cloth of Gold*, two good blooms, in the last week of November. C. E. C.

*Birds.*—I do not think that your remarks (p. 22) are applicable to the birds that infest gardens. 1. The green grosbeak or green linnet. 2. The chaffinch. These birds feed only on small seeds, and I cannot find any one who can say he has seen anything else eaten by them. No. 1. Destroys the *Polyanthus*, I do not know why. 3. The sparrow feeds upon grain in the winter and on fruit in the summer, and is never seen hunting for insects. 4. The greater titmouse. 5. The lesser titmouse. These birds destroy fruit buds in the spring, and are very destructive in the Pea borders. At other times they feed on Oats, of which they are very fond. They also are fond of flesh and fat, and are found in butcher's shops. 6. The bullfinch eats nothing but fruit buds when they can be had, and at other times seeds and winter berries. This is by far the most mischievous bird in gardens. 7. The blackbird or black ouzel. 8. The thrush or throistle. These birds are wholesale eaters of fruit; when there is no fruit, they feed on earth-worms and berries. They are of service in reducing the number of earth-worms, but these birds are in such vast quantities, that in the absence of all birds of prey, it is quite necessary, if fruit is to be had, to destroy many of them. The blackbird will eat Gooseberries until he stupifies himself, and in this state may be shot. At other times it is difficult to do so. I am not aware of any bird eating to this excess but the blackbird. The thrush is not so voracious as the blackbird. The titmouse will not be scared away like other birds, but is readily caught in wire traps, which is not the case with the sparrow and chaffinch. Sparrows will go into brick traps, but occasionally a robin is killed; the use of them has been discontinued in my garden on this account. The titmouse is fond of flies, but is not swift enough on the wing to catch many. The swallow tribe do this work more effectually, as they eat nothing but flies, being never seen feeding on the ground. All the books on natural history which I have seen, give a favourable account of birds, and would lead us to suppose that all of them do more good than harm. Many persons speak of the little birds as if all of them destroy insects; but I hope I have made it appear that this is not the case. A. A.

*Vine Borders.*—I am sorry that I have not been sooner able to make a few remarks on the contrast and apparent contradiction which seemed to exist between a statement of mine and one signed "G. R." brought into comparison with it, in the *Gardeners' Chronicle* of the 15th of December last. But if both statements be carefully considered, I do not think that they will be found to disagree, for "G. R.'s" directions for the use of carrion would reduce it, in the strict sense of the word, into a rich and dry compost; and it is moreover recommended to be used for the purpose of enriching a border of loose and dry materials, as any other manure might

be, whereby all the evil effects of carrion, as such, are done away with. This is quite a different thing from putting under Vines whole carcasses of horses, dogs, birds, or other large pieces of carrion [to be sure it is], and that, too, in a stiff cold soil, as is often recommended, and which I think so injurious. I certainly agree with "G. R." (we both rejoice in initials only, so our disagreements could not be carried far) in thinking blood, if applied in a proper manner and at proper seasons, to be one of the very best liquid manures that can be put to a Vine border. T. A.

*Rat's-bane, properly so called, a Settler for the Million.*

—When I published, in your Paper of January 12, the irreparable loss I had sustained by an army of rats, who had remorselessly eaten up all, save 11, of my large and favourite family of "pet" birds, collected at much cost, and with considerable trouble, during a period of 20 years, I felt sure that some at least if not all your correspondents would sympathise with me, and assist me to the utmost of their ability in placing the enemy *hors de combat*. Nor did I reckon without my host. From all parts of the United Kingdom have I received letters of condolence, many of them conveying hints invaluable for my guidance, in carrying on the war of extermination with certainty and despatch, and emphatically requesting that the result of my proceedings might be made publicly known. In the columns of the *Gardeners' Chronicle* too, there have appeared each week some valuable suggestions which I have carefully noted, and for which I hereby tender my best thanks to the kind writers. For the benefit of all who may hereafter fall victims to the rapacity of rats, I will now, as briefly as may be, lay before them my military tactics, and explain how I finally brought up my *corps de reserve*, which gained me a decisive victory. Instead of commencing hostilities at once, on discovering the extent of the ravages committed, I gave encouragement to the enemy, by throwing in his way divers articles of food, such as dripping, lard, meat, bones, fish, and other dainties. This gave him confidence, and threw him off his guard, so that he revelled unsuspectingly among all the good things of this life, while I was secretly plotting his destruction. I took care, meantime, to secure all the hen-houses, and shut the inmates up every night, to protect them from their blood-thirsty foe. The great field-day was Friday last, a day I shall long remember. I devoted it entirely to strategy; and, *Nil actum reputans dum quid superesset agendum*, I completed all my arrangements before the hour of dusk, impatiently waiting for the rising sun of the morrow. Poison was my weapon; fresh herrings and sprats were my aides-de-camp. The poison was carbonate of barytes, ground to an impalpable powder, and phosphorus. An incision was first made in the backs of the herrings, and the carbonate of barytes well rubbed in. The parts were then, as artistically as possible, reunited. The sprats being smaller than the herrings, and more plastic, were pierced through their sides with a sharp piece of deal wood. Had a knife, a fork, or the human hand touched them, all would have been vain. The barytes was then "drilled in," and other sprats, not poisoned, were placed above and below them, so that suspicion was disarmed. "*Latet anguis in herba!*" It should be borne in mind that the barytes is without taste and without smell; hence its great value. The way in which I applied the phosphorus would take more space to detail than you can well afford in one number of your Paper. At a future time, I will gladly furnish particulars of this, and other interesting matters, connected with my recent experiments, for I have been both a "sapper" and a "miner!" When the preparations were all completed, I stationed my trusty messengers in every part of the garden and shrubberies—some under trees, some in flower-pots, some hidden by a brick, others partly imbedded in the garden walks, &c., &c. They "did their bidding" right bravely! on coming down stairs, the morning following, I found the enemy had fallen into the snare.\* There was a serious diminution of the provisions furnished for their repast, and the hand of death was observable on every side. They had eaten ravenously; they had been seized with cruel thirst; they had sated themselves with water; they had "burst their boilers!" To use an expressive, and most appropriate classical quotation, there was a visible "*Decessio pereuntium—successio periturorum*," which clearly proved I had won the day. In a word, two days and two nights effectually routed the whole army, and I was left master of the field. If it be urged by some, as perhaps it will be, that I am cruel, consider the aggravation, an unprovoked and brutal attack upon a large affectionate family of sleeping innocents, who were ruthlessly snatched from their beds at midnight, torn limb from limb, and their agonised bodies crunched; aye, "crunched" is the word, between the fangs of murderous assassins. Oh! "Had they ten thousand lives, my great revenge has stomach for them all." *William Kidd, Sander's Cottage, New Road, Hammersmith, February 5.*

### Societies.

LINNEAN, Feb. 5.—W. YARRELL, Esq., in the chair. The Rev. G. Capel, W. Febitt, Esq., and J. Buckman, Esq., were elected Fellows. Dr. Lankester laid upon the table the works of the Ray Society for the year 1849, con-

\* It is worthy of note, that the usual snares and gins, employed for the purpose of catching rats, are of little or no use, when the creature is "quartered" where he can obtain animal food. Rats can readily smell the hand that sets the snare, and also the bait touched while suspending it on the hook. By this it is evident that rats are "up to trap," and must be outwitted by good generalship.

sisting of a volume of papers on botany, and Dr. Baird's beautiful monograph on the British Entomostracous Crustaceæ. The following address to Mr. Brown, on the occasion of his being elected to the Presidency of the Society, was then read by the Secretary, in the absence of Dr. Wallich, who had been deputed by the Royal Bavarian Botanical Society to present it.

Viro eminentissimo, edoctissimo, emeritissimo,  
Domino Domino ROBERTO BROWNIO, D.C.L.  
Permultarum Societatum Literarum Socio et Patrono,  
ET NUPER LINNEÆ LONDINENSIS PRÆSIDI ELECTO,  
Botanicorum Antistiti,  
Qui Antipodum Floram primus et pæne solus digessit,  
Explorans fideliter quas et ipse legerat et alii reportarunt plantas,  
Qui complures Plantarum Familias Naturales ordine disposuit,  
Exquirens fortiter novas et neglectas generum notas,  
Qui Physiologiam Stirpium plurimis investigationibus dispunxit,  
Exponens feliciter morphoseos et geometrices botanice leges,  
Qui reliquias Pristinæ Floræ fossiles discretim discussit,  
Expandens florenter intimam lignorum structuram,  
Qui denique hodiernæ Phytographiæ et Phytologiæ aperto discrimine  
Et pater et stator et auctor exstitit,  
Et, quod faustum nomen socio imposuit Germanorum Academia distincto,  
Cui alter Raius per totum orbem famam sui dispersit,  
Honorem, quo et se ipsam et virum ornavit Societas Linneæana,  
Promovendo in sedem patroni divi Linneæi talem vicarium,  
SOCIETAS BOTANICA RATISBONENSIS REGIA  
Calendis Januar. MDCCCL. Pide gratulatur.

Mr. Gould exhibited specimens of a new species of *Menura*, which had been taken on the Richmond River, in New South Wales. He stated that a few weeks ago he had the honour of dedicating a species of *Ptiloris*, a very beautiful genus of birds, to her Majesty, and he proposed to dedicate the present species of *Menura* to the consort of the Queen, under the name of *M. Alberti*. Mr. Gould stated that this was no mere compliment to the Queen and Prince, on account of their rank, as they had claims on the naturalist on account of their liberal patronage of natural history science. He also exhibited a new species of lobster, and two new Lepidopterous insects from Australia. A continuation of Mr. Huxley's paper on the Structure of some Forms of *Medusæ* was read.

### Review.

*An Address delivered at the Annual Fair of the Newhaven County Horticultural Society, Sept. 26, 1849, by J. B. Parsons. Newhaven (U. S.): 8vo, pp. 49.*

It must be confessed that in the United States things are done in a manner which shocks ancient English feelings, and would raise from their graves, if that were possible, the departed officials of some of our decrepid scientific corporations. Here we have a Horticultural Society calling its anniversary meeting "a fair," and what is more strange, intrusting the delivery of an official address on the occasion—not to its President, or one of its own officers, nor even to one of its members, but to a stranger, a nurseryman who seems to have been accidentally in the neighbourhood.

Unusual as is this, according to our notions of official propriety, yet it is impossible not to admit that the Newhaven Society was right, for a better address than that delivered by Mr. Parsons we have seldom read; and although we do not precisely recommend the example of the Society in question to be followed here on all occasions, yet we think the circumstance, like all such circumstances, well worth the consideration of those who have country societies to manage.

What sort of address this was will be collected from the following extracts:

"And as one of the very best means of interesting parents in the pleasures of the country, I deem these horticultural societies and their exhibitions. They are springing up too in every part of the country. Towns and villages of the east and far west, wherever slavery is not found, are organising them. They are changing the character of our products, increasing the wealth of our country, and giving new pleasures and interests to our people."

"During the year 1847, the number of bushels of Wheat produced in the United States was over 114,000,000; of Indian corn nearly 540,000,000; of Oats nearly 168,000,000; of Potatoes over 100,000,000; and nearly a million more of Barley and Rye and Buckwheat and Beans and Peas; while in pounds there were, of Cotton, 1,041,000,000; of Tobacco, 220,000,000; of Rice, 103,000,000; of Sugar, 325,000,000; of honey, 23,000,000, with sundry other articles, amounting in the aggregate at their market value to more than 838,000,000 dollars. For the same year, the value of the produce of orchards, gardens, and nurseries was more than 54,000,000 dollars. Of live stock and its products, there were 60,000,000 pounds of wool; 23,000,000 of swine slaughtered, besides horses and sheep, and beef and poultry, and dairy, valued in the aggregate at 252,000,000 dollars. There are no data by which we can form any estimate of the amount of capital employed in the cultivation of the soil; but we have stated sufficient to show that it is the great interest of the country; for, without attaching any value to the capital employed, the value of the articles produced by the soil amount to nearly 1,145,000,000 dollars; while the produce of all other industry, forests, fisheries, and mines, with the capital employed in commerce, manufactures, insurance, banks, profits of interest, and of the professions, and rentals of houses and lands, all taken together, amount in the aggregate to less than 869,000,000 dollars."

"There is no species of farming the profits of which can compare with those of the Peach orchard. Within a few miles of my residence there is an orchard of 20 acres, which is said to have produced 2000 dollars per