indicated 38° on the last day of the month, the intense frost the ground was covered with about 4 inches of snow, which doubtless prevented the frost from penetrating much below the surface. Favorable conditions prevailed on the 17th. The following are the minima:—Dec. 17th, 20°; 18th, 15°; 19th, 14°; 20th, 23°; 21st, 20°; 22nd, 19°; 24th, 17°; 25th, 24°; 26th, —1°; 29th, 20°. The above are the lowest temperatures that occurred between sunrise of the day; and the same time next morning.

In the neighbourhood of London the annual depth of rain-fall on the average of 34 years is 20.06 inches. The total depth of water in the reservoirs of the Metropolitan Water Board is 30.08 inches, is therefore 6 inches more than the usual quantity. But it was wanted; for trees in the previous seasons were suffering from dryness. A small stream that maintains the same level as that of the subterranean bed of water in the gravel in which the well is sunk, was 8 inches below the surface in September. Thus the meadow water was dry in the autumn of 1839. On the 31st of December 1860, the surface of the water in the same well was 4 feet below that of the year 1859, being 4 feet 7 inches. The underground reservoirs are now amply replenished; but it is doubtful whether roots that went down in quest of moisture when this was low will not become dry where the water has risen to surround them constantly.

The year has been remarkable for the frequency of strong gales and violent hurricanes. One of the latter, on the 27th and 28th of February, preceded very destructive rain on the west coast. It then swept across the open country, and it raised a great number of top trees containing from 100 to 400 feet of timber. In a fine wooded parts of Nottinghamshire, more than 20,000 trees were downed. A line of large trees, between Acton Park, Denbighshire, an Ash tree was torn up which measured 41 feet in circumference near the root. A Cedar of Lebanon, in Hertford, with the tree trunk, 100 years old, with 60 feet of straight stem, was upset, carrying with it several tons of earth. Again, on the 3d of October, a tremendous hurricane accompanied by a violent storm of rain fell over the country. A great number of top trees were downed as were above ground on St. Kilda, completely into the sea; traversing Scotland, tens of thousands of acres of wood were laid prostrate, and they were laid uniformly prostrate, as ordinary winds, with wet, will lay a field of grain.

Although January was comparatively mild for the season, yet, owing to the coldness of the summer months, the mean temperature of the year was, at least, 1855, nearly as cold, there was a severe winter, but a warm summer compared with the last.

December.—The mean temperature of the preceding month had a tendency to reach the average, but in the present mean again fell back, owing not so much to the coldness of the month as to a general low temperature at night, but without any great extent. The lowest, 22°, occurred on the 17th and 18th; and in two days of that period it came from N.W. It rained more or less on 14 days, and more than half an inch fell on the 14th; the total amount was .869 inches, being nearly half an inch above the average. The air was frequently so cold that 1 foot deep was about 1° higher than usual; at 5 feet it was nearly a degree above the average.

December.—Near the general low temperature of this month, nor the extreme minimum has ever occurred in any corresponding month in this century 1848 above the freezing point, or 54.48, whilst the extreme low was 1° below zero, or 1° Fahrenheit. In December 1858, as 9° in 1859; and in 1859, 9°; and these are the lowest temperatures we find recorded as having occurred in the neighborhood of London in any December for the last 50 years. The thermometer of the usual degree of cold, the wind was from the north-west for six consecutive days, and one day from N.E., notwithstanding which the barometer was very low; but soon after it suddenly rose. The intensity of rain and melted snow was above the average. The mean temperature of the ground at 1 foot deep was 44°, and at 2 feet 49°. The mean and the latter 0.17° below: the instruments at both depths

* Extremes of the year.
* Total depth of rain for the year.

The above is an account of the mean temperature of the ground at 1 foot deep was 44°, and at 2 feet 49°, the mean and the latter 0.17° below: the instruments at both depths

by a vowel; as was recommended by the British Association for the Advancement of Science in 1842. A third rejoinder that an adherent to this rule would send to Lobbes, Potta, Pottsi, Decanius, Decanieus, and that euphony is the only safe guide. Our correspondent, P. G. E., replies that as he under

1828, gen. 6, should be substituted for the termination ies, gen. 6, and not added to a terminal vowel; thus Decanieus, gen. 9, should be Decaniius, gen. 9, and not Decanieus, gen. 9. Thus the word is decaniius, gen. 9, Hooker, Hooker, gen. 9, Hookeri; and to his ear these terminations are the same as those which make Lobbes, gen. 9, Lobbi, Hooker, gen. 9, Hookeri; and if euphony is to be considered "the only safe guide," he thinks a glance at our scientific nomenclature will show how little individual tact is to be trusted. Thus the word Forbsoerrinus, Agasiziateshis, as examples, if some rule could be generally adopted it would be desirable, that names that once correctly given must be tolerated. In the last remark we must all agree; but there is little probability of uniformly being secured unless by showing what the practice of Latinizing barbarian names when Latin was a living tongue. Upon this point we have been in harmony with remarks by a very learned Latin scholar:

"As the Roman surnames or those which belonged to all the members of a family ended in us, therefore, in the principle of the practice in Latinizing names in referring to this preference in Latinize English surnames, the names Hooker, Hooker, Hookeri, and so on, were only in harmonious with the practice of the time, as such names as Sabinius, Petronius, Vitellius, Manlius, and others, which were Latinized in such Roman names as Sabinus, Petronius, Suetonius, Marius, Iulius, and others, and still more like the popular genitives ulla, illus, illius.

These observations seem hardly confirmed by reference to Latin proper names; the great majority indeed end in us, as Ostertus, Petillius, Petronius, Vitellius, Manius, Tarpeius, and so on; and that the English practice in preferring the termination ies or us and adopt us. Thus in the old Latin Charters we find Heanus for Henrie, Charicus for Charles, and so on. The use of our -us for Knulfus, Suenius for Swayne, Cautus for Cuth, Turfillus for Turfikl, and Haroldus for Harold.

Upon the whole then it seems that the termination ius or us, gen. 1 or 2 is allowable, but that ius that is which was used in the period of living Latin. We should therefore give more of the opinions of Oly Franks upon this point.

NOTE ON THE ACHENIUM OF PUMULIO ARGYROPHELE

Mr. James Drummond sent me a packet of seeds of this beautiful species of Swan River a few weeks ago, and the following memorandum:—The achene of several small composite plants, more especially those that form a portion of the flower or show a flower of rain falls, when they attach themselves by a gummy matter to the soil by their lower ends, at which time they are green. They ornament many parts of the earth in a barren spot in this country throughout the summer, and are therefore very free from being Bodmer, who accurately describes the achene of Pumilio, which is about 1.250 in an inch in length, to consists of a little bladder. Each blade is oval and 1.200th of an inch in length, and is formed of this structure, which is protected by a leaf which becomes adhesive when moistened. The achene is pitted with the bladder is attached by a stalk.
but these do not open into its interior. When the scheinia are placed in water or on a damp surface, the bladders in a few minutes all burst longitudinally and discharge their contents, rendering a large damp of water and will again rapidly absorb moisture and swell. Spirits of wine does not cause the bladders to burst; and it renders the musk slightly opaque.

If a pinch of this scheinia be dropped from a little height on damp paper, the greater number fall like drops of water and only a few burst; and if it be sprinkled from a little height, it will again reflex itself like a violin. This volatile liquid does not diffuse itself throughout the water, like gum, but remains surrounding the insoluble body. In this manner, the scheinia with their volatile liquid will be slowly absorbed by the paper and will again be reflected. It is thus that when a certain number of scheinia have been scattered by chance would conclude that each one is very rich.

The fact however is that the original name of Agarica, for so it stands in Pliny, had nothing to do with them, but was applied by Dioscorides to a peculiar drug, supplied by the Polyporus of the Larch, which was obtained principally if not solely from Agar, but which, though formerly of considerable respectability, appears now to have gone almost entirely out of use in regular practice. It is, however, still to be had of the herb-catchers, who impale it from Germany, a form on Laru striata being obtained occasionally from Archangel. As the true species occurs only on the Larch and, indeed, upon very old trees, it is confined almost entirely to places where the genus of Conifers is indigenous.

Other Polypores have often been substituted for that of the Larch, and therefore the name Agarician or, Agaricae as it was afterwards written, became to a peculiar drug, supplied by the Polyporus of the Larch, being generally applied to what after Linnaeus we call Laru striata. The ancient authors never applied the name, but we may suppose that Linnaeus, for Laru striata being obtained occasionally from Archangel. As the true species occurs only on the Larch and, indeed, upon very old trees, it is confined almost entirely to places where the genus of Conifers is indigenous.

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Mycologie.—No. XL.

AGARICUS ROMEOE, Bull.—This is one of the most common Agarics on the borders of woods and in thickets, making its first appearance about the end of June, and flourishing during the whole of the summer. Its general aspect is familiar to most observers of such objects, from the numerous radiating fissures which appear in the pileus. It has no especial qualities either of good or bad to demand attention, and is introduced here merely as an object which may often come under notice, and with whose name therefore many would be glad to be familiar.

A. romeroe belongs to that division of Fungi which consist of a stem and a cap, to which species is confined the brown, orange-coloured spores, to which no positive general character can be attributed through the large variety they exhibit. It is generally a good variety, and when thoroughly dried, is free from injurious fungous characters.

The pileus of A. romeroe is brownish yellow, thin, fleshy, and ball-shaped, and is clothed with fine adpressed, velvety, greyish hair. Sometimes it expands sepalsate and leaves broad chinks exposing the paler flesh beneath. The stem is firm, solid, slightly bulbous at the base, white or nearly white, and nearly conical when young, but minutely round ed; the gills are slightly ventricose, nearly free, and of a pulpy brown tint. It has no peculiar scent or flavor.

COTTAGE GARDEN SOCIETIES.

Among the societies which are successfully managed, I suppose that at Hightown, originated and conducted by Mr. C., is one of the most successful. It appears to have been established with the object of propagating the culture of plants and flowers of all kinds, and of promoting the industry of the workmen engaged in the various branches of the art. The system is that of a club, and the objects to be pursued are the same as in other societies of the kind. The meetings are held once a month, and the members are required to contribute a certain sum each year. The produce of the garden is divided among the members, and the profits are applied to the support of the society.

However, perhaps, for the best managed gardens do more good in fostering new and provident habits than prizes for the produce. For instance, if the inasmuch as a prize for good management must extend not only to the whole garden, but also to the garden for the entire season, for I hold it to be a rule that, so far as it is possible, to be given upon that day, that prize for the cultivation of a particular flower or plant. This plan is, I think, more particular but should extend to quarterly exhibitions.