WEATHER IN LONDON IN 1860.

JUNE 18 - 24, 1861.

Barometer, 729.30 millibars.
Thermometer, 10.9°C.
Wind, WSW.
Rainfall, 4.2 mm.

METEOROLOGY OF THE WEEK. - At Chiswick, from observations during the last thirty-four years, the average highest and lowest temperatures of these days are 23.3°C and 13.9°C respectively. The greatest heat, 33°C, occurred on the 24th in 1846; and the lowest cold, 20°C, on the 17th in 1844. During the period 100 days were fine, and 100 rain fell.

CAUSE OF THE VARIATION OF FLOWERS.

OF Deal, states, and, apparently, he is corroborated by Mr. Lightbody, that when Auriculas throw up side blooms these keep pretty true to their character; but that when they throw up heart blooms — that is, from the axis of the plant, the flower, no matter what may be the ‘colour of its edge’ — is just as likely to be of any other colour, and a certain species of Pelargoniums have lost the two dark patches of colour and the nectar, I would venture to ask some soil expert, whether this could be caused by artificial fertilization and by pulling off of the adjoining flowers to yield seed. The stigmas should be fertilized with pollen from, if possible, a peloric flower on another plant, and access of other pollen should, of course, be prevented. Peloric flowers have generally been found quite sterile; but Willdow got seeds from a peloric Snapdragon, and the peculiarity was inherited; hence it is possible, though not probable, that a new strain of quite symmetrical flowers Pelargoniums might be thus raised. Experiments are tedious and very often fail.

As I am appealed to, I will make a few observations on this subject, but I have no doubt others could throw more light on the question. Professor Moquin-Tandon, asserts, that with irregular flowers, as Snapdragons, the terminal flower on the axis of the plant is more apt to become regular, or peloric, than the others. I once found a Laburnum tree with the terminal flower on each raceme nearly regular, having lost its pealblossom structure. With many Pelargoniums (I have one at present in my greenhouse, but I know not its name), the central flower in each raceme has a very regular, long, and narrow, petals, and, what is very curious, loses the nectar, which may be seen in all the other flowers of the same species, in the central little flower is extremely variable. Are there not other cases of species which habitually have the central flower different from the others? It must, however, be confessed, that Mr. Masters, a high authority on such subjects, disputes that peloric flowers are apt to be central, but it seems as if they are almost entirely variable. The several recorded cases should be due to chance, and all these facts seem to hang together and to indicate, that in the flower nearest the axis there is a tendency to differ from the others, or to be variable, or to revert to a hypothetical regular form, that is, as should be at it, to revert to the form of a remote ancestor. The curious case of the Auricula apparently falls into this same group of facts.

I hope that some of your correspondents will state whether in the case of single buds sporting, as has so often occurred with Pelargoniums, it has been observed that such sports occur more frequently on one part of the plant than on another. If it is not so, it would be most interesting to have alluded to the central flower in certain Pelargoniums which have lost the two dark patches of colour and the nectar, I would venture to ask some soil expert, whether this could be caused by artificial fertilization and by pulling off of the adjoining flowers to yield seed. The stigmas should be fertilized with pollen from, if possible, a peloric flower on another plant, and access of other pollen should, of course, be prevented. Peloric flowers have generally been found quite sterile; but Willdow got seeds from a peloric Snapdragon, and the peculiarity was inherited; hence it is possible, though not probable, that a new strain of quite symmetrical flowers Pelargoniums might be thus raised. Experiments are tedious and very often fail.

ARRANGING FLOWERS IN BOUQUETS AND VASES.

(Continued from page 192.)

NORMAL and, though mechanical operation is that of mounting and mending flowers. Every one knows how often a beautiful flower-head falls from its stem, and how often we are forced to refrain from gathering one bright blossom, because on the same stalk are others not yet out which we cannot sacrifice.

The mounting prevents this difficulty, for a flower with less than half an inch of footstalk does quite as well for a bouquet as any other could do, taking it in its freshest state, either newly gathered and preserved in deep dark colour, and having lost its nectar. This is perfectly fresh and airy), and then pressing the smallest piece of well-soaked cotton wool around its stem. A little piece of wire wound upon it keeps the wool closely fastened on, and at the same time fixes the flower in its proper place. The cotton requires soaking and pressing together in the water for some time to become thoroughly saturated, unless a moss for each flower is moistened separately. A fresh green Myrtle leaf does very nicely for rolling over the little piece of wool.

Many persons, including most of the French florists, like the habit of binding their flowers on little pieces of stick — common square bits of deal, for instance; and these are well adapted to the purpose, being so perfectly hard and light.

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