

moral courage, and consummate ability with which Professor Henslow conducted the duties he volunteered for. It has been erroneously stated that he received the living of Hitcham as a reward for these services. Such however was far from the case; he was made aware, indeed, that he was considered entitled to Government patronage, but with conscientious disinterestedness he declined to avail himself of the offer. On the death of the Rev. John Henslow, he was recommended by the Bishop of Exeter (formerly tutor to Lord Melbourne) as being the man, in that prelate's opinion, was best calculated by his ability, activity, and common sense to reform that populous, remote and woefully neglected parish, where the duties of squire, magistrate and rector must all fall upon the latter.

Amongst the most remarkable instances of a direct benefit derived from the agricultural knowledge he acquired, was his discovery of the use of the phosphate nodules which abound in the tertiary formations of the Eastern counties. On the discovery of the nature and origin of those petrified animal remains, their value to the farmer was instantly apparent to Professor Henslow, who at once gave his discovery the widest circulation in the local papers, his views were widely disseminated, and he was rewarded, considering even as the discoverer. This was indeed heaping coals of fire on the farmers' heads, to whom this discovery continues to be a source of incalculable wealth, large areas of Norfolk, Suffolk, and other counties, being now honeycombed with phosphate pits; yet up to the day of Professor Henslow's death, no acknowledgment even in his country was rendered to him in any form. It is printed and circulated his volume of letters to the farmers of Suffolk, which pointed out and stimulated them to use methods which have largely increased the products of their holdings.

Though the professional career of Professor Henslow as the spiritual guide of his parishioners is a subject unsuited to our columns, yet it is right to state that his ministrations were all of a high and noble character, and though they were eclipsed in public opinion by his more conspicuous labours, and though he had the greatest aversion to a parade of religion, he was ever assiduous in spiritual duties—so much so that for fifteen years he was not absent from Hitcham for a single Sunday.

But what of vague fancies on going further into the life of the scientist and career of this most amiable, learned, and excellent man; a volume might be filled with the incidents of his ever busy and well spent life, during which he was incessantly occupied for others rather than for himself, and with anecdotes of his noble qualities of head and heart. We can only allude to his efforts, not completely successful until near the close of his life, to establish in Cambridge the Horticultural and degrees in viticulture, and to the University Herbarium and Botanical Garden, with their Library and Museum, to which he for 30 years very largely contributed from his private means, and to which he gave all his own botanical collections. To the University his loss is as disastrous as it is irreparable; whether as a member conspicuous for his varied accomplishments and general attainments, or as a teacher, especially in the Horticultural and degrees in viticulture, and to which he not only taught, but the only man almost qualified to direct the scientific, educational, and practical arrangement of its new museum.

During the last few years of Professor Henslow's life his health had become seriously impaired; incessant mental and manual labour, habitually protracted beyond midnight, and the want of proportionate daily exercise, were the causes, and the result was a general debility of the lungs and liver, which ultimately aggravated his heart symptoms. He returned to Hitcham on the 24th, when he rapidly grew worse, and was soon confined to a bed of protracted suffering, which he never quitted till his death on the 16th of May.

Prof. Henslow desired to be interred in the churchyard at Hitcham, and his funeral should be the simplest description, and none but his parishioners employed; his wishes were strictly attended to, but a considerable concourse of strangers found their way to that remote village, and, together with a deputation from the town and corporation of Ipswich, paid their unobtrusive tribute to the memory of one whose role of life was the motto of his family—"Quod videtur esse."

#### THE GORILLA.

OUR African explorer says of this ape, that "his short and slender legs are not able firmly to sustain the very body. They totter beneath the weight, and the walk is a sort of waddle, in which the long arms are used in a clumsy way to balance the body and keep the ill-adjusted equilibrium." Page 434.

Let us turn to page 435, where he informs us that "no animal is so well adapted to the use of its arms as the Gorilla, which uses them as a man or prize-fighter would."

Say, how would the Gorilla, so weak, so tottering,

so crippled, dare to meet a warrior-giant face to face, when, according to our traveller's own statement, its legs are too weak to sustain the vast body without the assistance of the arms, which in that case would have another important employment in sparring and fisticuffing! At page 58 he tells us that the "Gorilla is literally the King of the African forest." What a sorry sovereign! Moreover, he tells us that it performs other feats with its arms and hands, notwithstanding that without the aid of these arms and hands its short and slender legs cannot do their duty. Thus, this tottering cripple can break a gun-stock, bend the barrel, kill a man and tear out his bowels. In the meantime I ask, what becomes of the huge supererogatory body, whilst the frail legs are giving way beneath the weight of the rest of the animal?

Mr. Du Chaillu's admirers and supporters (so well known for their acquisitions in orthodox zoology), ought to say to him, Good sir, place your Gorilla in a tree, and then you will see immediately that your crippled, and tottering, and waddling ape suddenly becomes a steady and an active animal amongst the branches, perfect at all points; and is no longer a tottering and tottering ape, but a steady and a strong Buffon said of the sloth, when he viewed it on the ground, instead of looking at it whilst in a tree—its real and only place of abode, on account of its most extraordinary formation by the unerring hand of Nature. See my "Wanderings."

Satisfied in my own mind (after having paid attention to the facts) that my best account of the Gorilla, that apex was their lives in trees, I am astonished to learn that the veritable apes which Mr. Du Chaillu fell in with during his travels, should always have been coming at large over the ground. I come to the conclusion that he must have been labouring under unclear delusion, and that he saw phantoms.

But what of this? I am borne out in my conjecture by the traveller himself; for at page 434 he says that the Gorilla which had been killed "was like a very devil."

If the book is to go into a second edition, I would advise the compilers of it to sweep away with unsparring hand nearly all those parts of natural history which the "Natalia" appeared in the first. They are a disgrace to zoology.

Were I to hazard a conjecture, I would presume that by the descriptions and figures which Mr. Du Chaillu has given us of the Gorilla—he has never seen a live one. Charles Waterton, Walton Hall, June 5.

#### Home Correspondence.

**Rooted Forest Trees.**—Having cut down a considerable number of trees in the spring of 1860 on the sides of the drive to my house, for the purpose of making openings here and there, but leaving some in groups and many fine Beech, &c., I was very much provoked to find them looking as they do now, that the bark was full of cracks, full of holes, and that the wood of those taken out were buried, but as the openings were sufficiently large no damage could have been done if the least care had been taken, but the forester, in order to save himself and others employed the trouble of removing the branches a few yards, set fire to them quite close to the growing trees, and hence the bark is full of holes, and the wood is full of holes, and the wood is full of holes. What would you advise me to do in order if possible to hasten the growing on of the bark, or should the trees be taken out and replanted, as without bark they have a very unsightly appearance? Is not the forester deserving of punishment for such gross negligence? A. C. B. (If the liber or lamer bark of these trees is not destroyed, they will recover.) If it is only the outer rind that has been roasted alive, the trees will get over that. Wait and observe.)

**Fertilisation of Vines.**—I do not know whether any exotic Vines seed, or whether gardeners would wish them to seed, and so raise new varieties. Having never observed the large Perivinkle or Vines major to produce seed, and having never seen it secure in Germany, I was led to examine the flower. As botanists know, is a curious object, consisting of a style, tilted upwards, with a horizontal wheel on the top; and this is surmounted by a beautiful brush of white filaments. The concave tire of the wheel is the stigmatic surface, and was very evident when the pollen was placed on it, by the use of the pollen tube. The pollen tube, some shed out of the anthers, and is embedded in little grooves in the white filamentous brush above the stigma. Hence it was clear that the pollen could not get on to the stigma without the aid of insects, which, as far as I have observed in England, never visit this flower. Accordingly, I took a fine bristle to represent the proboscis of a bee, and by its aid I pressed down the anthers on the sides of the corolla; and I found that the pollen sticks to the bristle and is carried down to the viscid stigmatic surface. I took the additional precaution of passing it down first between the anthers of one flower and then of another, so as to give the flowers the advantage of a cross; and I passed it down between several flowers of the same vine, and also between the vines on two plants growing in pots; the germs of those swelled, and on four out of the six I have now got fine pods, about 1½ inch in length, with the seeds externally visible; whereas the flower stalks of the many

other flowers all blanked off. I wish any one who wishes to obtain seed of any other species that does not habitually seed would try this simple little experiment and report the result. I shall sow the seeds of my Vines for the chance of a sport: for a plant which seeds so rarely might be expected to give way to some freak on so unusual and happy an occasion. Charles Darwin, Down, Bromley, Kent.

**Plants in the Country.**—On coming to this part of the country ten days ago, I have observed in the hedgerows and field in the plantations the same result—that the Oak trees are to a great extent blighted, and in many cases the under branches are dead. It is not general, as you will find in the same plantation two or three with the leaves not so, and those beside them in good condition. On the 1st of June I saw a tree in the last year's wood in a great many cases dead, owing to the sap not having been formed into a woody substance before the severe winter set in. A great many of the trees I find are beginning to send out small shoots from the boles of the trees within those few days. I observed it all up the east coast—in hedgerow timber along the east coast up to York. From Evesham in Worcestershire I found that the sap flow had like to be arrested, as well as a few Ashes; and most of the Hollies, Pines and Common Laurels are all killed at this place. The country lies rather low, and little outfall for water; of a light soil along the Derwent side to York. About a high soil or rather sandy moor, resting on sand and gravel in some parts. Six miles from Scarborough, I found that the sap flow had like to be arrested, as well as a few Ashes; and most of the Hollies, Pines and Common Laurels are all killed at this place. The country lies rather low, and little outfall for water; of a light soil along the Derwent side to York. About a high soil or rather sandy moor, resting on sand and gravel in some parts. Six miles from Scarborough, I found that the sap flow had like to be arrested, as well as a few Ashes; and most of the Hollies, Pines and Common Laurels are all killed at this place. [We are unable to suggest an explanation.]

**Diex grandiflora.**—In your notice of the Horticultural Exhibition at South Kensington, I do not see any mention of one plant exhibited there, which is equally rare and beautiful, and so different of cultivation from most of the great horticultural plants ever seen in its flowers. I refer to *Diex grandiflora*, which I do not recollect ever to have been exhibited before anywhere in the course of some 34 years' experience of horticultural exhibitions. In the *Sertum Orchidaceum* it is figured from a foreign specimen, and is there recorded as having only flowered once in England, viz. in 1855 with one of the Oldfield's Scotch gardeners in near Perth. A *Constant Reader*, Walskells, Sherborne, near York. [We are unable to suggest an explanation.]

**Mercury.**—May I beg to call your attention to a singular correspondence in your issue of the 15th inst., which states that "Mercurialis Cheopandiana" Bona Henriensia, a very indifferent kind of *Spinach*. This does not appear to be quite correct, the plants popularly known as Mercury being *Mercurialis perennis* and *annua*; the first would indeed prove to be a very indifferent *Spinach*, as any one who might partake of it in this climate would find to their cost; but *Mercurialis Bona Henriensia* is very generally known as the Good King Henry and Fat Hen, and is frequently used by country folks as a *Spinach*. *Mercurialis perennis* occurs so frequently, and in such abundance near London and elsewhere, and at a season, too, when green vegetables are not always plentiful, that I have thought it well to call your attention to the difference between the two. Correspondents who are otherwise should be tempted to try a dish of it; it is already upon record that a man, his wife and three children experienced highly deleterious effects from partaking of Mercury fried with bacon. J. Ray, Namsersmit.

**Mercurialis.**—The common name of *Cheopandiana Bona Henriensia* is Mercury; and as for the poisonous *Mercurialis* the vulgar name of Fat Hen is generally used. **Tree Supports.**—Four years ago, when transplanting some trees of 15 and 20 years' growth, as supports above ground were very much objected to I fastened them underground by driving four posts deeply and firmly into the earth on the outside of the large ball of earth got up along with the roots, anchoring strong cords to the posts, and so supporting the plants in a very windy place they have never flinched, and have grown well. J. C.

**Effects of last Winter's Frost.**—Not only have Hailies of large size suffered from the effects of the