sunk in the apex, soon after which, if all go on favourably with them, they take their normal form.

In striking them from cuttings, I have had various degrees of success, and have for the sake of experiment used the wood in all sorts, but I like one-year-old wood and that well ripened disposed of all. With this, and the never-failing cocoa-out fibre refuse, I generally obtain nicely-rooted plants in about six weeks.

The soil I use for growing my plants in is similar to that used for the seed-boxes, but much rougher, and I always study to give more surface than depth, as I like to see the masses of black woolly-looking fine-leafy substance the surface of the soil.

These plants flourish in a moist warm atmosphere; consequently the syringe should be used very frequently during the day, with the thermometer ranging from 70° to 70° in summer, and 65° to 70° in winter, when less syringing must be done, but the plants should never be allowed to be quite dormant. The time I usually choose for repotting is about the end of February.

I intended to say a few words upon Cephalotus and Sarracenia, under the head of Pitcher-plants, but must defer it until some future time.—J. EVERS.

VARIATIONS EFFECTED BY CULTIVATION.

As you have been so obliging as to insert my query on the crossing of Sarracenia, and have further informed me that some of your correspondents have had various results, I beg to ask two or three other questions, for the chance of some one having the kindness to answer them. I am writing a book on "Variation under Domestication," in which I treat chiefly on animals; but I wish to give some few facts on the chances of cultivated plants.

1st. The fruit of the wild Gooseberry is said to weigh about 5 dwts. (I am surprised that it is so heavy), and from various records I find that towards the close of the last century the fruit had doubled in weight; in 1817, a weight of 26 dwts. 17 grs. was obtained; in 1826, 21 dwts. 18 grs.; in 1847, "Wonderful" weighed 32 dwts. 18 grs. In London, reached the astonishing weight of 36 dwts. 18 grs., or 880 grains. I find in the "Gooseberry Register" for 1852, that this famous kind attained only the weight of 29 dwts. 9 grs., and was beaten by "Antigoneo." Will any one have the kindness to inform me whether it is authentically known that the weight was 36 dwts. 18 grs., has, since the year 1845, been ever excelled?

2nd. Is any record kept of the diameter attained by the largest Parsnips? I have read of one above 2 inches in diameter, which is a surprising size compared with the flowers of the wild Cirsium tricolor, and the allied species or varieties.

3rd. I should be much obliged if you would communicate the variety of the Dahlia flower? Mr. Salisbury, writing in 1806, shortly after the first introduction of this plant into England, speaks of their flowering from September, or the end of September, to November. Whereas, Mr. J. Wells, in London's "Gardener's Magazine" for 1828, states that some have bloomed as late as the end of November. Do any of the varieties now regularly flower as early as June? Have any varieties been observed to withstand frost better than other varieties?

If any one will give me information on these small points, I shall feel greatly obliged.—Oxen. Darwin, Down, Bromley. Kent.

VINERY UNPRODUCIVE.

My vineyard, a lean-to about 20 feet long, faces the south. The border, made fifteen years ago, 2 feet deep, bottomed with bricklets; a good mixed soil, replenished on the surface with horse dung nearly every year. Now, this vineyard has never done well. The Grapes generally become clung, and fail to get any colour, at least two-thirds of them: I am speaking of the Black Hamburgs. My man gives them plenty of air, and shuts them up every night. We do not force them by heat, but give them a little heat in March. We have had the opinion of efficient men, but their opinions vary. One says it is in the house, others say it is in the border. Will you give me your opinion in your Journal? This year the mildew spoiled those that would have ripened.—G. B. S.

[We should have been more able to decide between the different opinions given, had we known more of the state of your Vines; and if, in addition to bricklets at the bottom of the border, it is also sufficiently drained. We will, therefore, just make two suppositions, and shall be glad if either meet your case.

If the wood of the Vines is vigorous, long-jointed, foliage large, wood imperfectly hardened, and somewhat pithy in the centre when cut, then there is no doubt either that the border is not drained sufficiently, or the roots have descended even beyond your bricklets, or the soil altogether is too rich for the Grapes. In such a case, the most effectual care would be a good deep drain in front, and raising the Vines and placing them in fresh soil, consisting chiefly of fibry loam lightened with lime rubbish, and enriched with eighteen buckets of broken bones as the most nourishing manure. This should be done now, and the roots as little exposed as possible, placed within 4 to 6 inches of the surface, and covered with fermenting matter to set them growing; and if the Vines breakm柔软ly, they will feel the operation but little the first season. The second remedy would be less troublesome.

The drain we have, and that removes the rich surface from the top of the border, doing it carefully so as not to hurt the roots getting down to the bulk of them, and then giving 3 inches or 4 inches of fresh soil, and then a layer of horse-droppings, and a little litter above will enter the fresh roots into it, and a little may be added every year.

If the wood is firm, short-jointed, and moderately strong, then something of the last remedy may also be applied, but greater care will be necessary in the management of the house and, besides giving air plentifully during the day, air should be given early in the morning, and after the Grapes are set a little air should be left on at night, to ensure the roots being enable to be done, and the heating medium, slates or pipes, brushed with lime and sulphur if never hotter than 160°. By these means and moderate cropping, you will secure colour and avoid the mildew.]

THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

No one can be more alive than we are to the mistakes and misunderstandings of those in authority over this or any other public body, and we never have refrained, and never shall refrain, from exposing them. The mistakes and misunderstandings, however, must be specific—general and sweeping complaints never effect reform, and are unfair, because, like squirrels, they cannot be refuted. On these grounds, and because we considered the mistakes he noticed as they occurred, we decline inserting the chief part of a letter which we have received, and at the same time assure the writer that he is labouring under a misapprehension, when he concludes that it is to Dr. Landsey that his causes of complaint are attributable. We believe we are correct in stating, founding our Landsey notice, that the paramount influence in the Society's Councils, and, therefore, any feeling the writer may have on that subject is groundless. But there is an alleged fact at the conclusion of our correspondent's letter which deserves explanation, and so we publish it without reserve.

A nurseryman near London very generously offered prizes of 43 value for Hyacinths, of which he is an ardent admirer as well as grower. The offer was accepted, and he announced it in his catalogue. To his surprise no notice whatever was taken of it in the "Proceedings" of the Society, but he hears that the Council have changed the day of the Hyacinth Show from March to February, thereby making it a Show of forced, instead of unforsaken flowers, and entirely frustrating his intentions. He wrote, I am told, to the Secretary, complaining that it was not noticed in the "Proceedings," as other special prizes had been, and is informed they were only "common prizes," and, therefore, there was no room for a special showing system and the other prizes. Yes, while Sir C. W. Ditle offered his prizes they were announced; when the prizes for dinner-table plants was offered that also was noticed; and when Master Somebody gave two gold fish to the pond, it is duly announced in large type. But no place could be found for growing a nurseryman's prize. What wonder is it that he will never trouble the Society again with special prizes for Hyacinths?

"This is one example out of many. I have more at your service if you give place for this."—VIGILANS.

NEW CUCUMBER.—We have received from Mr. Edwards, of York, through Messrs. Hunt & Son, of Leadenhall Street, fruit of a new Cucumber called "Reynolds' Perpetual Bearer." Of