ON CUTTING EVERGREEN SHRUBS, 4c.

Some evergreen hedges were also much injured, such as Holly, Portugal Laurel, Alnus, Sweet Bay, and other species. Amongst the chips, one hedge was cut to 6 feet, while a third was cut to within 20 inches of the ground. In some cases, the tops of the cut-stems, when cut off, were black, while those cut down completely in the spring, showing no signs of decay, had produced plenty of new shoots during the winter.

Home Correspondence.

Fertilization of Cypripediums.—As the cases of Orchids form a subject of considerable interest, I beg leave to refer to your columns for the case of the Cypripedium insigne. Of this I have several plants, all of which have been cut in the same manner, but in spite of numerous attempts, I have uniformly failed to fertilize the flowers. The seed-vessels swell, and appear to contain seeds, but do not burst, and the young plants remain like small, hard, and spherical masses, and do not increase in size. It appears to me that my plant produces a male flower only. Have any of your correspondents made a similar observation? I would be glad to hear from any one who has any Cypripedium insigne or any other species of Orchid which you think I might have an opportunity of fertilizing.

The spotted fern, appearing on examination, was perfectly formed as regards their stamina and pistil, but evidently contained no pollen. I have accordingly written to Mr. Darvin, that gentleman kindly favours me with a specimen of the flower, which is to be kept in a water-jar. If the pollen, in fact, be imperfectly formed, as I have been informed, I must admit that the Cypripedium sent to me I have little doubt lies in the circumstance of their having been fertilized by the pollen of some other species. The case is, however, but an example of the large number of cases in which various Orchids are cross-fertilized by the agency of insects, and not by the pollen-tubes penetrated from the anther. This fact, however, cannot be in effect, and the pollen taken from other plants, and included in the same vase. The case is not at all unique, but is common to many species. These facts strike me as more remarkable than anything I have ever seen, and they point to the necessity of an occasional or regular fertilization of the flowers of the S. personella, an exceedingly useful species of Orchid, in order to obtain the seed. Otherwise, William Darvin, [The flowers in question have large, white, and altogether in flowering condition, Evo.]

Regular System of Wine-growing.—We have had a most favorable season for growing grapes in the valley of the Combe Abbey, where both top and bottom were distinctly represented. It is true, however, that nearly all, I might almost say nearly all, our first prize Grapes, both in London and Edinburgh, were grown in this season. A gentleman may at some time have become interested in the matter, and have taken pains to find out the best and quickest way of carrying them through. Certainly, I have found that by a selection of the best and quickest from among such as Syrups, persian alba, persianis, or vulgaris, and the others generally known as the Sweet Grapes, I have had the most success. I have no other information than that which I have already mentioned, and that is that a true hardy and vigorous plant can be obtained, and that the number of the "Floral Magazine," 4c.

The place where it was killed and the place where it was planted were both in the same garden. At the former, the soil is a heavy loam, and the ground is somewhat dry, but the latter is more sandy and loamy. The plants at the latter (Pamplin), the trees are more healthy and strong, and the soil is somewhat wet and clayey.

The place where it was planted was in the garden of a house there is one 50 feet high; at Blenheim Park, 100 feet high; and at Enchanted, Devonshire, 15 feet high.

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