

and a portion of them might be potted for window decoration the following season. The soil in which they are planted should be rather light and rich and ought to be well loosened to the depth of 15 inches at least; for although they grow and flower if put into any soil, they will yearly become weaker and fewer in number, until they ultimately disappear altogether. In planting the bulbs ought to be placed about 5 inches apart, and covered with about 2 inches of soil. They require no protection or further care except a few small sticks to support the taller blooming sorts, and having the surface of the soil stirred occasionally. As soon as the leaves decay, the bulbs may be taken out of the ground and put in a dry place for a time in order that they may get thoroughly dry before storing for the winter. Any cool place will answer for this purpose; but they must be kept from mice.

For flowering in windows or balconies plant in 7-inch pots, in each of which put five bulbs of Van Thol or three of Rex Rubrorum, Tournesol, Florentine, or Mariage de ma Fille, all fine kinds for pots. After potting they should be placed in some spare corner out of doors and covered about 2 inches deep with coal ashes, or any material which can be easily removed. Here they may be allowed to remain till about Christmas, when a portion may be removed to the greenhouse to forward their blooming season. Van Thol is the earliest and ought to be treated as such; but for the sake of variety take also Rex Rubrorum and Tournesol; these may be had in bloom in February. Of course provision must be made for keeping up a succession of bloom. When done flowering early Tulips must not be turned out of doors or otherwise ill-treated; they should be allowed a place in a frame or greenhouse where they can go gradually to rest.

Miscellaneous.

The Metropolitan Squares.—Just now the squares of the west end, and of some of the regions between that and the far east, present a pleasant aspect: the young buds, in all their tender shades of greenery, have suddenly burst forth, and not yet had time to be polluted with the London smoke. In Russell Square, which, so far as the planting and arrangement of the trees and shrubs is concerned, is one of the most beautiful in its neighbourhood, the Lilac and other blossoming plants make a great display; and the Grass, just at the present time, looks as green as emerald; the early summer flowers give good promise. These spots are cheering to the sight of the wayfarer, and a means of health to many. Although but a limited number have a right of admission into these places, they are, notwithstanding, so far as the pleasure of the general appearance is considered, and in the health-giving qualities of open and well-planted space, a kind of public property. Many thousands of persons take a great interest in these grounds besides the dwellers around. The children of the poor, who often live in dingy places not far off, come to feast their eyes upon the fresh green foliage; and foot travellers, who pass to and from the City, look with critical comparison at the different squares. We have our flower-shows and other horticultural exhibitions: prizes are awarded to successful competitors in this department, and for the breeding of animals; societies are established for the promotion of various improvements; and it would be useful to found a society for the purpose of encouraging the improvement of the metropolitan square gardens, so that the gardeners might be tempted by suitable rewards, to be raised by general subscription, and awarded by a judicious committee, to increased exertions. We would have a prize for the best blossom of Hawthorn within a certain radius of the centre of the City, and the same for red and white Roses blossoming there; others for the best keeping of the green sward, flowers, and general matters; and it is most desirable that the seasons of the year should be noticed, and the best conditions of these spaces in spring, summer, autumn, and winter considered, and the most successful in preserving their beauty at the various seasons properly rewarded. The notice in such a way would lead to competition and great improvements, and, considering the difficulties with which the metropolitan gardeners have to contend, they are well worthy of encouragement. Besides the stimulus given to the gardeners, the publicity which would be the result of carrying out the above suggestion would cause persons to take increased interest in their own squares. *The Builder.*

Calendar of Operations.

(For the ensuing week.)

PLANT DEPARTMENT.

CONSERVATORY, &c. — Shading should be used sparingly here, except on bright days, for during showery unsettled weather like the present, plants require all the light that conservatories afford, and are greatly benefited by an occasional gleam of sunshine. The beauty of most soft-wooded plants will be considerably prolonged by the use of weak manure water, which should be given frequently wherever it can be done. Indeed, such things as Achimenes, Clerodendrons, &c., may be had in full beauty from June to October through being liberally supplied

with manure water, but this must not be given too strong at first. Keep the atmosphere as moist as can be done, but avoid damp on cold nights by leaving sufficient air to cause a gentle circulation, and spare no attention to keep plants clear of insects. Stock for autumn and winter flowering will require careful attention to get it sufficiently forward. Chinese Primulas, especially the double varieties, if at all backward should be placed in a cold frame and shaded from the sun, where they will make rapid progress, particularly if the pots stand on a slight bottom heat. Cinerarias for early flowering should also be potted, choosing the strongest suckers, and placing them in a close shady frame till rooted. These are sometimes very subject to the attack of thrips at this season, but if they are kept cool and moist, and fumigated occasionally, there is no danger of their keeping clean and growing vigorously. In stoves the stock will be growing rapidly, and must be afforded sufficient space to allow of the perfect development of the foliage and the formation of compact handsome specimens. The atmosphere of this house can hardly be kept too moist, and the plants should be sprinkled overhead morning and evening and every available surface kept moist.

FORCING DEPARTMENT.

PINERIES.—Such varieties of Pine Apple as are at all liable to spoil at the bottom before the upper pips are coloured should now be kept as dry as possible immediately they show the least signs of colouring, keeping the atmosphere also as dry as can be done without injury to the rest of the stock.

VINERIES.—As formerly recommended, Grapes intended to hang through the winter should be thinned very freely, and, if necessary, they should be gone over a second time, leaving them so that the berries when fully swelled will scarcely touch each other. A moderate crop only should be left on the Vines; for to ensure success in keeping Grapes fresh and in good condition till next March the Vines must be in first-rate health; be satisfied, therefore, with a moderate or rather light crop in the late house. Keep the atmosphere of houses where the fruit is colouring in active circulation, using gentle fires by day, with abundance of air, and leaving a little air on at night to prevent damp. If red spider appears inclined to be troublesome, wash the pipes, &c., with a mixture of soot and lime, and if the colour is objectionable add more scot.

FIGS.—Trees that have been kept dry while ripening the first crop, and are now cleared of this, should be well watered at the root, and if there is any appearance of red spider the leaves should be thoroughly washed with the engine. Give manure-water to trees showing a heavy second crop, and keep the atmosphere moist by frequently sprinkling the passages and borders, &c. Keep the shoots thin and regularly tied, so as to avoid confusion, and expose all parts of the tree equally to the light. Where the fruit is ripening attend to previous directions, and keep the atmosphere and borders as dry as can conveniently be done. Assist trees in pots by giving them a liberal supply of manure-water.

FLOWER GARDEN AND SHRUBBERIES.

Go over the beds frequently and keep the young shoots of Verbenas, &c., nicely regulated and pegged down until the ground is fairly covered, after which the shoots may be allowed to grow more at liberty. On poor dry soils two or three applications of weak manure water given at intervals of a few days, and when the ground is moist, will greatly assist in getting the beds covered without loss of time. Remove dead and dying leaves from Roses, and give the autumn flowering varieties plenty of manure water in order to keep them in vigorous health, and secure plenty of wood for blooming in autumn. Those budded on the Dog Rose must be kept clear of suckers, which, when allowed to grow, weaken the head, besides having an unsightly appearance. Mildew is sometimes troublesome after this season, and no time should be lost in dusting the infested plants with sulphur, for the evil will soon spread and destroy the foliage, and ruin the plants for blooming in autumn. Proceed with the propagation of herbaceous plants as expeditiously as possible, in order to get this work out of hand and the lights, &c., at liberty. Take advantage of the present showery weather to give walks and lawns a good rolling, and endeavour to keep the Grass short and neatly mown; nothing looks worse than a badly kept lawn.

HARDY FRUIT AND KITCHEN GARDEN.

The occasional showers we are now experiencing will be found favourable for the growth of Strawberry runners, and a sufficient stock for forcing next season should soon be potted, and placed in a shady frame until they get established. Prepare ground for fresh plantations by heavily manuring and trenching, or if ground cannot be obtained at once select the strongest runners and plant them on a shady border in rich soil, to be transplanted with balls early next month. Asparagus beds can hardly have too much manure-water from the stable or farmyard tank during the present month. On dry friable soils salt may be applied with advantage, but this should not be used on strong adhesive soils, as it keeps the ground wet in winter and rots the roots. See that there is plenty of Peas planted for furnishing a late autumn supply, and also attend to keeping up a succession of French Beans, Spinach, and salad.

COTTAGERS' GARDEN.

Let every bit of spare ground be constantly broken up and filled with some kinds of greens or Turnips. Of autumn Coleworts, what is called the Rosette is the best for small gardens. If manure is scarce, extra spade husbandry will in some degree compensate for the want of it.

STATE OF THE WEATHER AT CHISWICK, NEAR LONDON, For the Week ending June 7, 1860, as observed at the Horticultural Gardens.

June.	Moon's Age.	BAROMETER.		TEMPERATURE.					Wind.	Rain.
		Max.	Min.	Of the Air.			Of the Earth.			
Friday 1	10	29.676	29.559	65	43	54.0	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	54	S.W.	.00
Satur. 2	11	29.480	29.160	64	46	55.0	57 $\frac{1}{2}$	55	S.E.	.87
Sunday 3	12	29.486	29.330	61	45	53.0	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	55	S.W.	.04
Mon. 4	13	29.703	29.629	63	43	53.0	57	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	S.W.	.07
Tues. 5	14	29.804	29.740	61	38	49.5	57	55	S.W.	.32
Wed. 6	15	29.767	29.730	64	46	55.0	57	55	W.	.08
Thurs. 7	16	29.765	29.740	60	40	50.0	58	55	S.W.	.12
Average..		29.668	29.555	62.5	43.0	52.8	57.1	54.8		1.48

June 1—Cloudy; fine; very fine.
 2—Fine; boisterous, with constant heavy rain.
 3—Boisterous; showery; very fine at night.
 4—Fine; heavy shower; very fine at night.
 5—Very fine; cloudy and showery; clear and cold.
 6—Rain; heavy clouds; boisterous; overcast.
 7—Rain; cold and drizzly; clear and cold at night.
 Mean temperature of the week, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ deg. below the average.

RECORD OF THE WEATHER AT CHISWICK.

During the last 34 years, for the ensuing Week, ending June 16, 1860.

June.	Average Highest Temp.	Average Lowest Temp.	Mean Temp.	No. of Years in which it Rained.	Greatest Quantity of Rain.	Prevailing Winds.							
						N.	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.
Sunday 10.	71.5	48.0	59.8	14	0.95 in.	1	9	2	2	3	8	5	4
Mon. 11.	72.1	48.5	60.3	10	0.47	—	7	3	3	4	7	10	3
Tues. 12.	71.3	49.8	60.5	15	0.78	—	7	3	1	6	11	3	3
Wed. 13.	72.0	48.9	60.4	16	0.77	1	5	5	1	2	10	8	7
Thurs. 14.	72.6	49.0	60.8	15	0.36	1	3	5	1	3	9	7	5
Friday 15.	73.0	49.2	61.1	14	0.38	2	4	7	2	4	7	3	5
Satur. 16.	72.7	49.1	60.9	14	0.46	1	4	6	1	9	7	3	2

The highest temperature during the above period occurred on the 16th, 1858—therm. 97 deg.; and the lowest on the 15th, 1850—therm. 30 deg.

Notices to Correspondents.

ADULTERATIONS OF FOOD: *A West Country Man* need not be surprised. A gross fraud was committed upon the public. Pepper containing flour, Mustard skins, and Capsicum skins was publicly sold in Liverpool. The Excise prosecuted the vendors, as they were bound to do. The vendors obtained the assistance of some blind scientific people, who swore they could not find flour or Mustard or Capsicum skins in the pepper seized; this testimony was permitted by the Liverpool magistrates to outweigh that of the quick-sighted well-trained officers of Excise, and the fraud obtained a momentary triumph. Then came further evidence on the part of the Crown, exposing what in Liverpool are called scientific witnesses, the frauds were proved, and fines inflicted. That is all.

BOOKS: *Isle of Wight.* Both Glendinning on the Pine Apple and Hamilton on the Pine Apple should be consulted.

CARDAMINE: *J G.* Many thanks. We are well acquainted with this monster, and a most curious thing it is.

CUCUMBERS: *Mr Cuthill* has sent us specimens of what are called "Prolific new Cucumbers." One is a good-looking Black Spine, the other is a Smyrna; the first is Cuthill's old Black Spine, the other is the well-known Highland Mary, a very great bearer. So much for what are called NEW THINGS.

CUTHILL'S BLACK PRINCE STRAWBERRY: Specimens of this variety, the first that have ripened in the open border this season, have just been sent to us by Mr. Cuthill. This usually very early kind is later this year than it has been since 1855, when the first ripe fruit was gathered on the 15th June. Last year it furnished ripe fruit on the 27th May. No open air Strawberries have as yet made their appearance in Covent Garden Market.

INSECTS: *E M R.* Your insect is not a pupa. It is the nearly full grown larva of the bloody-nosed beetle, *Timarcha tenebricosa*. The small oval erect sacs on the Lime leaves are we believe a disease of the leaves themselves, and not produced by insects, of which we have never found any traces in their insides. *W.*

MESPILUS JAPONICA: *G W.* The common Mespilus or *Eriobotrya japonica*, if you want to fruit it, must be grown under glass like an Apple tree in the open air.

NAMES OF PLANTS: *Peter.* The plant No. 3 is we see *Dipteracanthus Schauerianus*.—*W Dean.* We cannot find any such name as *Psychotria leucantha*. Your plant seems to be *Coffea nodosa*.—*T W.* *Macrotomia Benthami*, a plant quite new in gardens. A pity it is not handsomer, considering that it is quite hardy.—*E K.* *St. Alban's*. What is called *Veronica polita*, a variety of *V. agrestis*.—*J M P.* Some *Opuntia*; but *Opuntias* cannot be named from mere flowers.—*W Dean.* *Cymbidium pendulum*.—*Eno.* *Acer tataricum*.—*C L.* It is probably *Festuca bromoides* in a very young state.—*J K.* 1, *Anguloa Clowesii*; 2, *Aerides crispum*.—*Sarah.* 1, *Ruscus androgynus*; 2, *Fuchsia arborescens*; 3, *Columnea Schiedeana*.

NEW ZEALAND FLAX: *J S.* The flowering of this Flax is not an uncommon occurrence in this country. It often does so, especially after hot summers like that we experienced last year.

PONDS: *A Subscriber* having puddled a pond with bad clay is anxious to obtain a recipe for making a good concrete, which would adhere to the clay and hold water, and he hopes that some of our correspondents will kindly give one. We should use a concrete made in the usual builders' way, only using good Portland cement instead of fresh-burnt lime.

PRICES OF TROPICAL VEGETABLES AND FRUITS: *Abeundus.* Information upon this point can only be found in colonial papers. According to the last Ceylon Overland the following were the current prices in Colombo on the 28th April. Plantains, 1st size, per dozen, 2d.; 2d size, per doz., 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; 3d size, per doz., 1d.; Pine Apples, each, 1d.; Mangoes, 3d.; Oranges, 1st size, per doz., 6d.; 2d size, 3d.; Cocoanuts, 1st quality, per 100, 8s.; 2d quality, per 100, 7s.; Chillies, dry, per lb., 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; Chillies, green, per 100, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; Garlic, per lb., 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; Ginger, dry, per lb., 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; green, per lb., 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; Onions, large, per lb., 3d.; small, per lb., 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; Limes, per 100, 1s.; Potatoes, per lb., 3d.; Yams, 1st size, per doz., 1s. 6d.; 2d size, per 100, 1s.; Sweet Potatoes, per 100, 1s.; Spinach, per bunch, 3d.; Salad, per bunch, 3d.; Greens, 3d.; Soup Vegetables, per bunch, 3d.; Beans, per bunch, 2d.; French Beans, per bunch, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; Bread Fruit, each, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; Jack Fruit, each, 1s.; Cucumber, each, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; Water Pumpkin, each, 6d.; Green Plantain, per doz. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; Radish, per bunch, 3d.; Brinjall, per doz. 3d.; Snake Gourd, each, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

ERRATUM. In the list of awards made at the Crystal Palace (see p. 500 of our Advertising columns of last week), there is a mistake in Peaches, Class E. Instead of "2d. Charles Smith, gr. to A. Anderson, Esq., Norwood;" it should be "2d. Mr. Henderson, gr. to the Duke of Sutherland at Trentham."