obtain abundant crops without applying manure to the roots? In a Vinery the watchword hitherto has been, get the roots of a Vine right and there will be both fruit and colour, that is, providing that the tops have had a fair share of treatment under the present imperfect modes of ventilation; but will even Mr. Fish assert that with the roots in bad condition, or good roots in a poor border, he can finish a good bunch of Grapes by supplying whatever he may consider good feeding stuff to the leaves? If such can be established as a fact gardeners will have much reason to thank him for the discovery. Will not the canes, leaves, and fruit of English Vineries, with all their imperfect ventilation, bear comparison with the produce of vineyards of even sunnier climes where ventilation is unrestricted? And is it not a well-known fact that the Vines, not only of every country, but almost of every district, differ in quality? Is this difference the result of soil or ventilation? Suppose a couple of Fuchsias are potted in poor soil; let them be set out of doors, and one of them watered with well-water, the other with manure-water, will the plant watered with well water keep pace with the plant treated with manure-water? Or suppose another plant of the same genus is refused the necessary supply of water to its roots, on the ground that its leaves are sufficient for feeding purposes, and if supplied with as much unvitiated air as it can use, and a feast of Mr. Fish's richest fumes, and watered over-head to boot, will it thrive? Were the plant endowed with speech, it would be very likely to cry out, give me water for my mouths, I can dine without, nor drink with my breathing apparatus. I am not sure that the organism of the Anœctochili differs widely from that of semi-succulent or other plants, but somehow they contrive, not only to exist but to show that they appreciate what must, indeed, be "stuffy and stagnant, the atmosphere of a bell-glass;" surely they must "perforce" eat pure oxygen, not the best thing in the world for them, according to theory. Now, as regards the capability of leaves to absorb more food, on the ground of their presenting a greater surface to the air than the roots do to the soil. I think this must ever remain a matter of opinion; leaves we might measure, but roots we never can. See the beautiful down-like processes that surround several inches of a young root as it passes through a space not filled with soil. I believe these processes are considered analogous to mouths; they are no doubt small ones, but they are many in number; and are we sure that these mouths are not produced by every fibre in its passage through the soil? But supposing they are not, and that roots only absorb at their points, how can we measure their power so as to compare them with the feeding power of leaves? Practice, not theory, shows us their power is very great; allow a plant to become dry and flag for want of water, and then supply it—the leaves are soon up, teaching us that the quantity taken up in a short time has been considerable. Last winter in some draining operations I saw an Elm root quite as thick as a goose's quill, cut at exactly 50 yards from the nearest tree, and from its thickness no doubt it went several yards farther. Consider the multitude of roots contained within a circumference of 100 yards, and presenting perhaps as large a surface to the soil as the leaves do to the air. We are told that the great lesson taught by the old-fashioned roofs should not be lost, and that lesson was, that a constant supply of fresh air is essential to the well-being of plants. I cannot see what proof we have that even this lesson was taught in such a forcible way. Would the plants and fruit of the old houses bear comparison with those of the present day? If the present success is attributed to superior skill, will the ablest horticulturist now say that he could grow better things in the old houses than he can do in the new ones? I venture to say I think the most important lesson gardeners have learnt from a knowledge of the old lumbering timbers, small panes, and puttied laps, is, that light is more essential than air to the healthy development of the vegetable kingdom. As Mr. Fish has referred to the highest organism in the animal kingdom in support of what he advances, I beg to suggest that he tries it practically; let him get a good breakfast to begin with, but let that be the last morsel of comfort his mouth is to have for the next 24 hours; he may breathe with all his might the purest air he can find, nevertheless I expect before the end of his term he will be ready to admit that there was truth in the proverb—"Man cannot live upon the wind." I do not wish it to be thought that I ignore the necessity of ventilation, or that I feel ungrateful or unthankful to Mr. Fish for his advocacy of the subject, but I think it is riding a hobby over hard to say that plants derive ten times as much food through their leaves as they do through their roots. *D. Buchanan, Durham Park.*

[Our correspondent doubtless remembers the famous contest "t'wixt eyes and nose," and draws his inferences accordingly.—EDS.

Rose Stocks.—Will any of your readers give me information on the subject of cutting back newly budded standard Rose Stocks? I have followed the advice of Mr. Rivers, in his "Rose Guide," watching the newly budded stock in early spring until the middle of May, or the beginning of June, and then cutting off, as closely as possible, everything above the growing bud. I took the further trouble to apply the "Forsythic mortar" to the cut, but regretted to find, in a fortnight after, a black line of disease running downwards, which will surely undermine the growing bud, and destroy the stock in another season. Any advice how to make sure that the cut will cicatrise, or as to the safest time of year in which to cut back the Dog Rose stock will be thankfully received. *Devoniensis.*

Wood of the Cedar of Lebanon.—Much difference of opinion appears to exist as to the durability of the wood of this Cedar. In Dr. Stanley's "Sinai and Palestine," chap. 14, p. 435 (2d edition), it is stated that the ceiling of the church of Helena, at Bethlehem, is of beams of Cedar. If these were examined it would settle the point, so far as concerns the wood when grown and used in its native country and climate. *C.*

Hard Soil (see p. 877).—In 1859 I planted some Cottager's Kale on hard clay ground, making holes with a "gavelock" and filling them with water previous to putting in the plants. The season was very dry, and the plants did remarkably well without further attention. *A. R. L.*

Unseasonable Flowering of Laburnum.—We have a standard tree of Laburnum here on which there are several bunches of blossoms out, and several more in bud. Is it not unusual to see so much bloom on the Laburnum at this season of the year? The head of the tree has been clipped into a spherical shape, about 3 feet through. Perhaps this severe pruning may have something to do with the matter? *C. E. F., Cirencester, Sept. 17.*

Allamanda Hendersoni (see p. 877).—This Allamanda differs from A. Schottii in several particulars. I have grown both this season for purposes of exhibition, and I have had an opportunity of judging as to their comparative merits. A. Hendersoni flowers more freely than A. Schottii, especially in a young state, and it has a better habit. The flowers are much larger than those of A. Schottii, of a finer form, and when unexpanded the bud is of a dark brown colour. The flower is equal in every respect to the plate sent out of it by Mr. Bull. Like many more I was rather disappointed in not seeing a fine specimen of it at the late International Exhibition, when many who doubt its merits would have had an opportunity of seeing and judging for themselves. *John Cole.*—— This plant flowers in a much younger state, and more profusely than A. Schottii; and the individual flowers have more substance. I have been using it, and Dipladenia amabilis, carefully wired and mossed, ever since May last for table decoration; and I find them stand well, and prove very effective amongst other flowers. I send you flowers of A. Hendersoni taken from a plant struck last autumn, which commenced flowering in May last in a 6-inch pot, and has never been without from six to 12 flowers open fresh on the plant since. I am now drying the plant off, as you will see from the wood, which will account for the flowers being smaller than usual. *W. Howard, Gardener to J. Brand, Esq., Bedford Hill, Balham.*

Rhododendron Soil.—Perceiving a notice in your paper (see p. 873) as to the best soil for Rhododendrons, I would call the attention of your readers to the following facts, and then ask for a reason for them. There are Rhododendrons in this place (on the S.E. coast of Ireland) growing vigorously on a dry shingly bank with scarcely any soil, facing due south, and without any preparation having been made for them; while in the garden with a similar aspect, and in a bed carefully prepared for them, they are sickly and puny, and have been so for some years; those on the bank are all the Rhododendron ponticum, those in the garden of various descriptions, including the R. ponticum. Many of the Rhododendrons have been removed from the garden from time to time, when apparently almost dead, and have been planted in a rich moist shady flat near a small river, and are now vigorous and thriving plants, but not much more so than those on the poor, hot, dry bank. *C.*

Viola cornuta, and other Bedding Plants.—Two years ago I planted four beds in our Italian garden with this Viola, which proved far beyond my expectation, both as regards beauty and compactness of habit. As it flowers freely, it likewise seeds freely. Having hit upon a plant so useful, and so easy of cultivation, I determined to give it a larger trial. I therefore put in quantities of cuttings in a close frame, without bottom-heat, merely inserting the cuttings in sharp sand, in which they struck root freely. But my most successful plan of getting it up in quantity was raising it from seed. Having gathered a lot of good seeds at the time I was sowing my Autumn Cabbage, I prepared a bed 2 yards square, and put in the seed as regularly as possible. The Viola did not come up as soon as the Cabbage, but the seed being fresh, it was not far behind it, and it appeared in such abundance as to soon form a carpet over the bed. Arrangements had been previously made where it was to flower the following season in the shape of masses, edgings of beds, and ribbon borders. I therefore planted it out at various times from December up to bedding-out time, and now while I write I am at a loss to say which of the plantings flowers best. But doubtless the earlier it is planted the earlier and stronger it will flower. In early ribbon borders, in broad belts, it is grand. Notwithstanding the late heavy rains, when other things look woe-begone, it is the first upon the return of fine weather to show an open countenance. I may therefore safely say that it will have its day, according to the fashion. I think brighter days are also dawning for the much-abused Achyranthes Verschaffeltii. Having seen it last autumn at one or two places, I was rather pleased with its colour and compact habit of growth. As we have an extensive chain border upon each side of a broad walk on our lower terrace, I felt disposed to give it a trial with Golden Fleece Pelargonium, link for link, matching them in pairs across the walk. Mr. Bennett, of Osberton, kindly presented me with a few cuttings of the Iresine from his flower beds about the end of October, and by the month of May I had the required quantity, viz., 1600 plants, potted off for every alternate link of my chain border. At Osberton Gardens I am happy to say that it still maintains its high character as a bedding plant. When I was at the late International Exhibition at South Kensington, I had a ramble round London, and saw this plant bedded out at several places, a circumstance which made me shudder, seeing it wagging in the wind at that dry season. On paying a visit to the Royal Horticultural Gardens, at Chiswick, I got my eye upon a nice lot hardening off, which put me in better spirits. Upon making inquiry, I found that they had been out about a month. To make sure against a failure, I kept a second string to my bow, as a failure on this particular chain border would have been rather a conspicuous blunder all the season; therefore, as a safety valve, I had the required quantity of Perilla nankinensis in store. About the middle of June I put out the Iresine, laying it flat on the ground to save it from cutting winds as much as possible. But, like other things, during the hot weather it made little progress; still, it maintained its position, and when once it got proper hold of the ground it improved amazingly, while Amaranthus melancholicus, at no great distance, succumbed to its fate. Coleus Verschaffeltii has with difficulty kept its head above water; last year it was all that could be desired, as one of the stripes of a long ribbon border. The links in the chain are surrounded with white gravel; in the centre of each link is planted standard Pelargoniums 2 feet high, viz., Stella and the old Pink Nosegay, which are flowering effectively above the Golden Fleece and the Achyranthes. Mr. Veitch called here the other day, and pronounced the display to be a great success. The combination of colour is truly grand when the sun is shining; the Golden Fleece, with its clear yellow leaves and compact habit, contrasting strikingly with the bright-veined foliage of the Achyranthes; and, surrounded as it is with white gravel, a little pinching and pegging are all that it requires to keep it in order. If the Iresine and Golden Fleece possess the property more than another, it is that a wet day detracts nothing from their lustre. *J. Miller, Manor Gardens, Worksop.*

Orchard-house Trees in Pots.—I commenced cultivating Nectarine, Peach, and Apricot trees in pots two years ago on a small scale, and I was so well satisfied with Mr. Rivers' system, that last autumn I built an orchard-house to contain 100 trees in pots. My fruit I find never drops, unless more than 24 are left on a tree, and then only the small ones drop. With regard to which is the best system of growing orchard-house trees, *i. e.*, whether in pots or in the form of bushes planted out in the border, I beg to ask, if they are not in pots how are we to remove them to the open air, so as to have a succession? I remove fully 40 of mine to the open air during June; this gives me a succession, and my orchard-house, which, during winter, will easily contain 100 pot plants, during summer would only accommodate 65 or 70. I am also, by experience, so well satisfied with Mr. Rivers' pot-culture of Grapes, that I am now building a Vinery solely for their growth in pots. *E. W. Fyffe, Box, near Stroud, Gloucestershire.*

Crossing Papilionaceous Flowers.—The difficulties referred to by Mr. Darwin (see p. 756) as having occurred to himself, Gartner, and others in cross-fertilising Papilionaceous flowers, and which have led to the adoption by Mr. Darwin of the very ingenious cups proposed by him as artificial receptacles for the pollen to be applied to the seed-bearing variety, have induced me to send you the results of my own experiments in crossing the common garden Pea during the past season. They have been obtained without the aid of any artificial receptacles for the pollen, and by simply emasculating the seed-bearing parent whilst the anthers were in an immature state, at once making a single application to the pistil of the keel-petal of the male parent containing mature pollen; and as the ratio of success obtained by me during this and several previous years appears greater than that which fell to the lot of Gartner, the experiments in question may be worth recording. Amongst 104 inter-crosses tried this year between several of the popular varieties of the common Pea, I have obtained 58 pods, which may be designated of average fertility, and containing from four to 10 Peas; 32 pods containing from one to three Peas; and the remaining 14 being either abortions from the pods containing no seeds or from the flowers not setting, and consequently no pods being formed—giving a total of 90 pods, containing 413 Peas, as the result of 104 crosses. As similar results have in previous years followed my operations on the Pea, I conclude that Gartner's experiments failed, either from the flowers of the seed-bearing parents being injured in the operation, from the pollen being applied either in an immature state or in insufficient quantity, or from wet or damp (both of which are very injurious to the fertility of pollen) penetrating to the organs of fructification; and to the latter cause of non-fertility the work of opening the flowers for artificial crossing renders them more readily liable. I have conducted these operations upon the Pea principally with a view of satisfying myself that a change of colour sometimes takes place in the seed obtained as the immediate result of crossing two varieties of different coloured seed. That such does at times occur I have furnished myself with ample evidence, but I have this year noticed some changes of colour of such a singular nature that I may perhaps be excused for chronicling them. The effect of crossing the striped-seeded Sugar Pea as the seed-bearing parent with the Purple-pod Pea (which produces a greenish-buff coloured seed) as the pollen-bearing variety, has been to produce a pod, in colour partly purple and partly following that of the pod of the Sugar Pea, and containing seven Peas, some of them being of a clear violet purple colour, and the remainder of that colour mottled with olive. I shall watch with interest the produce of these seeds as springing from parents different not only in colour of seed, but also in shape and substance of pod; the inner membrane of the pod being absent in the female (a characteristic of the Sugar or edible podded Peas); whilst the pod of the male parent is of the ordinary character of Peas, the seeds only of which are edible. In another cross between a bright Grass-green seeded variety as the seed-bearing parent and the Purple Pod as the pollen bearer, I have obtained a pod of the colour of the female parent, containing six Peas of a bright yellow

colour. Although I have succeeded thus far with the Pea, the same quantum of success has not attended my experiments amongst other genera of the Papilionaceous class; but probably to wide diversities of size and variety may be attributed my non-success. *Thomas Laxton, Stamford.*

Double-blossomed Peas.—I forward you specimens of the double and semi-double blossoms of the garden Pea. They were taken from a very fertile single-stemmed seedling of upright growth, and about 5 feet in height; the original stems at the time of gathering were bearing well-filled pods of nearly-ripened Peas in full quantity. From constant daily observations of this variety I am convinced that the early blossoms were all single. The second growth produced chiefly double blossoms, but where the offshoots were lengthened the upper flowers seemed to get more semi-double towards the point, and some of the final blossoms were entirely single. The semi-double flowers were in some cases forming pods apparently fertile. It was too late to obtain ripe seed this season; I have, however, marked and saved for seed some of the semi-double blossoms which appeared to be setting, and will report to you the result of their produce, if successful, on a future occasion. I have seen the same occurrence in two other instances. Since writing the above I have examined another row of the same variety in another garden, and there I found the same tendency to double blossoms in the second growth. I have also examined other varieties growing side by side under similar circumstances, and have observed a solitary instance only. I am inclined to believe that the cause suggested by Mr. Darwin—impaired fertility—has been at work here, as the first blooms were all single and fertile, and were all, at the time of the opening of the double blossoms, ripening their seed. It would seem as if, after the drought of July, the succeeding rains had started a second growth from the ripening stems, which had already expended their fertility, and that the organs of fructification had become abortive, and the flowers double from exhaustion of the plant. *Thomas Laxton, Stamford.*

Semi-double Verbenas.—I send you a bloom of a peculiar seedling Verbena. The plant has produced flowers of a similar character to the one sent, all through the season; some have been slightly different, having two or three extra petals or florets surrounding the eye. I have been fertilising most of the flowers with their own pollen, thinking that they may perhaps in the course of time produce a perfectly double Verbena. *J. Wills, Huntroyde Gardens, near Burnley.*

Flower Beds.—Among a great variety of bedding Pelargoniums grown here Stella has undoubtedly borne the palm, and I agree with Mr. Fish in placing Cybister next in order of merit. Spread Eagle is only fit for a small bed, and in this part of Ireland (Westmeath) where continual showers have been the order of the day for a long time, it does not display itself at all to advantage. I am glad to find that Mr. Fish reports Lord Palmerston to be a good bloomer. For size of truss, profusion of flower, and continuity of bloom it is unequalled by any I have seen. One bed here has been a sheet of colour since the week it was planted (towards the end of May) until it was cut into somewhat severely for cuttings a few days ago. Mrs. Pollock has grown as vigorously as Cloth of Gold; Christine, I think, still holds the first rank as a pink—Mrs. Whitty is not nearly so good. A circular bed planted with Excellent (zonal Pelargonium) in the centre, and surrounded by a broad belt of Cerastium tomentosum, has been very pretty up to this time, but of late the Cerastium seems to melt away, I suspect from the constant wet weather. Is this usual, or is there any remedy for the evil? Iresine Herbstii is looking very gay now, but it was rather dingy early in the season; Coleus Verschaffeltii is only "so-so;" Amaranthus, after giving a good deal of trouble, is now very good. *Alpha.*

Camellia, Lady Hume's Blush (see p. 875).—This may be wired without falling to pieces by any practical hand; and when put up even "A." himself shall not be able to tell whether it is wired or not. *W. Howard.*

Iresine Herbstii.—Mr. Bennett, of Osberton, was one of the first to bring this really useful bedding plant into notice, and it is now beginning to be generally acknowledged that he spoke the truth and nothing more as regards its suitableness for out-door decoration. Last spring I planted several round beds of it, edging them with Cerastium tomentosum, and by a little trimming and pinching of the young shoots, they are the most compact, and, at present, the prettiest beds in our flower garden. Near the Iresine is a bed of Amaranthus melancholicus, edged with Golden Chain Pelargonium, which looks quite threadbare compared with that which contains the Iresine. *Isaac Watson, gr. to Sir J. Trollope, Bart., M.P., Casewick, Stamford.* ——I quite agree with your correspondent, "J. M. Y." (see p. 829), that soil has a great deal to do with the growth of fine-foliaged plants. Here Iresine Herbstii is looking well, and has succeeded perfectly since the day in which it was planted out. All who have seen it pronounce it to be the best they have seen. I gave the ground in which it was planted a good dressing of rotten manure from an old Melon bed; the plant is, in consequence, now 2 feet 6 inches in height; some of the leaves measure 3 inches across, and are excellent in colour. It is edged with variegated Honeysuckle. It did equally well last year. Coleus and Amaranthus have succeeded very well with us, but I am of opinion that for exposed situations the Iresine is superior to the Amaranthus, which is sooner damaged by wind and rain. I have a bed of Mrs. Pollock and one of Mrs. Benyon Pelargonium, both edged with Iresine; I allowed the latter to grow about 6 inches, and then I pegged it down. It threw up shoots at every joint, and makes a very pretty edging. I ought to add that it was planted out on May 14th. With plenty of manure and water the Iresine would doubtless grow 3 feet or more. I should be glad to show it to any one who may call. *D. Parish, gr. to the Rev. W. Heberden, Great Bookham, Surrey.*

Rhododendrons.—On my invitation you have given me valuable information, and on your invitation (p. 874), I offer my experience on the subject. My situation is on the declivity of a hill, the aspect north-west, open to the setting sun; on the south it is bounded by hills higher than my grounds, and on the east with many running three miles to the base of Snowdon. There are ponds on the land, and a rivulet running through. The soil on which grew my plants was virgin soil—Heath and wild Gorse the product. The Rhododendrons planted along the rivulet and the banks were most prolific, as also the Portugal Laurels and the common Laurels in every direction—the latter most abundant, and cropped down annually, the leaves forming an excellent under-bedding in the horse stalls, and adding to the farmyard compost. In reference to the soil it has no energy—it gives only a *locum standi.* I believe that these evergreens draw their nourishment from the air; and the condition of a most suitable atmosphere, shaded, the south wind prevailing, with the attraction of the mountain moisture, provides the required conditions. As to the soil itself, it will not grow a garden Turnip without plenty of manure. The same of bog peat, which has no energy, and is valuable only in the powdered state for the growth of young tender roots in cuttings of Laurels or layers of Rhododendrons. The Irish Ivy, of which I send you a specimen leaf [very large], grows here most luxuriantly on brick as well as stone towers; and if the brick tower were raised 500 feet, the Ivy would reach the summit, drawing its nourishment from a congenial atmosphere, and the guano of sparrows clustering in it. The soil was only the virgin earth, sufficient to give the Ivy root, and was afterwards covered with gravel, on account of the walk. The Irish Yew also succeeds well. In Greek we find the expressive words which in our language read —"Know thyself." A man succeeds only in certain atmospheric conditions of climate. The food he takes will not otherwise satisfy the conditions of nature. His mouth, with that of other animals, stands instead of the roots of the vegetable nature. A cow is a pedestrian and a tourist, and like man travels the fields, whether by instinct or fashion, for the best nourishment and healthy air. The coat of an Alderney stares here frightfully, and craves for emigration. *B. B. C.*

Adiantum farleyense.—In your paper of Aug. 25 occurs a letter from Mr. Bray, in which he says that the report published by you at p. 730 concerning the above-mentioned Fern, "certainly contains some truth, but not the whole truth." The report states that the plant exhibited at Kensington was introduced by T. D. Hill, Esq. (from whom the particulars published were derived), and was presented by him to Col. Miles. Mr. Bray admits this to be truth, but adds, "It is also true that the plant was resuscitated, propagated, and sent out from here," a circumstance which in no way clashes with the original report, which I consider contains all the information that was really necessary to be known, namely, by whom the Fern was introduced, and from whence; its habit of growth, name, &c. Mr. Bray's letter would lead one to infer that the Fern was presented to Colonel Miles in the condition in which it was exhibited in 1865. Such however was not the case, for when sent here it was a small plant in a 5-inch pot. When shown at Kensington it measured 3 feet in height and 2 feet 3 inches through; and the same plant at the International Exhibition measured 4 feet in height and 3 feet 9 inches through. I have now one large specimen plant and 12 smaller ones grown from offsets. I believe this mode of propagating it to be the most certain way of getting them true. *J. Green, Gardener to Colonel Miles, Barton Hill, Malmesbury, Wilts.*

Bulbocodium vernum.—Is this plant, which Mr. Robinson mentioned last year (pp. 675 and 868), identical with Trichonema Columnæ, noted in your pages by David Cameron only a short time before his death in 1848? And is the representation of the plant in flower in Sowerby's "English Botany" (Plate 2549) faithful and just? If it be so, it does not promise much in the way of beauty; nor do I understand why, as I find stated in a catalogue, it is "best known as the Red Crocus." *Diss.* [Bulbocodium is quite a different thing from the British Trichonema Columnæ, and much more resembles a Colchicum, to which genus, indeed, it is related. See the figure in "Botanical Magazine," t. 153. EDS.]

Tom Thumb Pelargonium.—Will some one of your correspondents kindly tell us the origin of the Pelargonium named Tom Thumb? *George Willers, Gonville Nursery, Cambridge.*

Societies.

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL: *Sept. 18 (Floral Committee).*—S. Rucker, Esq., in the chair. The chairman alluded in suitable terms to the loss which the Society had sustained in the death of Mr. Blandy, of which event notice was taken by us last week (see p. 849). It was also stated that the dates of meetings for the month of October, as given on the outside cover of the Society's Almanack, were wrong; but that those in the body of the Almanack were right—a correction to which it is well to direct attention. As regards subjects of exhibition, Mr. Turner, Slough, contributed a charming basketful of the new bright orange-scarlet Nosegay Pelargonium, called Lady Constance Grosvenor. Messrs. Barr & Sugden furnished a variety of Alternanthera, called A. spathulata rosea, which proved a badly-coloured form of A. paronychiodes. Cut blooms of a beautiful lilac and white striped Verbena, called Lady of Langleybury, was shown by Mr. Cruikshanks, gr. to W. Jones Lloyd, Esq. This was stated to have been obtained from Purple King, and if it prove to be equally good in habit with that variety, it will, doubtless, be a valuable sort for beds. It received a First-class Certificate. A Seedling Pelargonium, named Miss Beatrice Shove, with bold greenish-yellow leaves, and cinnamon zone, came from Mr. Marsh, gr. to W. Shove, Esq., Riverdale, Lewisham. From Mr. Standish came various Aucubas raised from seeds furnished by plants in this country. Their leaves were prettily mottled, and spotted with different shades of yellow, and among them will doubtless be some strikingly beautiful varieties. A Special Certificate was awarded them. Mr. Mann, Brentwood, exhibited various tricolor-leaved Pelargoniums, among which was one named Phidias, which being nearly related to Golden Harkaway, a very dwarf kind, may prove useful for small beds or edgings. Conspicuous among seedling Dahlias, of which several were shown, were Lord Lyon, purplish crimson; Valentine, white tipped with purple; and Flambeau, yellow, heavily edged with warm brownish red, to all of which Second-class Certificates were awarded. These, as well as Starlight, a promising kind, golden yellow, tipped with reddish brown, were contributed by Mr. Turner. Mr. Bragg received a Second-class Certificate for the Hon. Mrs. Gerald Wellesley, white, heavily edged with purplish crimson; Mrs. Burgess (Burgess), violet shaded crimson, also received a Second-class Certificate; and to Pope's Gem, a fancy variety, formerly described by us, a First-class Certificate was awarded. Mr. Collier, Bethnal Green, furnished a kind called Salmon King. To Mr. Rawlings was awarded a Second-class Certificate for Aurora, rosy lilac; and from the same exhibitor were also blooms of John Sladden, a very dark variety, to which we have alluded in former reports. From Mr. Wheeler, of Warminster, came Vanguard, maroon tinged in the centre with violet, a variety to which a Second-class Certificate was awarded. Mr. Eckford, Coleshill, also showed Seedling Dahlias. Messrs. Stuart & Mein contributed spikes of Hollyhocks, to one among which, named John Downie, salmon crimson, a Second-class Certificate was awarded. These had all suffered, more or less, from travelling. From the Gardens of the Society came a collection of plants consisting of Orchids, Lantanas, Petunias, and various zonal Pelargoniums, conspicuous among which were Clipper, Bonnie Dundee, Lucius, Pink Beauty, and Persian. From Mr. Eckford, came Saccolabium Blumei, bearing two beautiful spikes of flowers; and from Mr. Anderson, gr. to T. Dawson, Esq., Meadow Bank, Glasgow, came cut blossoms of Odontoglossum grande, which for size and brightness of colour have seldom or never been equalled; they received a special award. The pale yellow flowered Oncidium cruentum was shown by Mr. Ward, gr. to A. Berrington, Esq., Abergavenny.

Sept. 18 (Fruit Committee).—Mr. Jones, Petworth, exhibited a dark red-coloured seedling Plum, which was stated to be excellent in flavour, but as some doubts were entertained as to whether or not it was different from others already in cultivation, the decision of the Committee respecting it was deferred till another meeting. Apples came from Mr. Cruikshanks, and yellow Peaches, ripened on standards out of doors, from Mr. Sifkin, Snaresbrook. From the Society's garden came Buckland Sweetwater and different kinds of Hamburgh Grapes. Some Peaches and a purple Plum, of Belgian origin, were shown by Mr. Whiting, the Deepdene, Dorking. From Messrs. Veitch came different varieties of Savoys, among which were the Dwarf Green Curled, which is one of the hardiest of all Savoys, and the Early Ulm, which is an excellent kind for small gardens, being comparatively small in size, and on that account requiring little room. Mr. Wrench, London Bridge, furnished Early York Cabbages, and different kinds of Onions, all apparently varieties of the Tripoli. From Messrs. Cutbush came Nuneham Park and White Spanish Onions, obtained from different localities in which they had been grown side by side, and the difference between the samples in point of size was very great, the White Spanish in all cases not being half as large as the Nuneham Park. It was stated that at next meeting Mr. Whiting would produce good samples of White Spanish, of which the Nuneham Park, notwithstanding the difference in size just adverted to, is considered to be a well selected stock.

Sept. 15: (Weekly Show).—Messrs. Barr & Sugden exhibited on this occasion an interesting collection of Onions, in which were White Spanish, Flat Trebons, and Nuneham Park varieties, which as shown all bore so great a resemblance to one another as to be undistinguishable without their labels. There was little or no difference between them in point of size, each measuring 1 foot in circumference; but on weighing them the Nuneham Park proved a little heavier than either of the sorts just named, of which the lightest was the White Spanish. The three sorts in question were grown side by side in the Society's garden at Chiswick.

BRIGHTON HORTICULTURAL: *Sept. 12 & 13.*—This was held as usual in the Royal Pavilion, in which the display of flowers and fruit was both brilliant and extensive, but on the first day the weather was most unfavourable, rain falling heavily throughout the afternoon. Perhaps the strong point of the show was the fruit, which was in abundance and exceedingly good. Pine-apples were large, and excellent. Grapes both for size of berry and weight of bunches were very fine, particularly black Grapes. Peaches, Nectarines, Pears, Plums, Apples, Figs, &c., were all good and in abundance, competition in some instances being very close. The most attractive feature in this department, however, were the collections of 10 dishes, for which the 1st prize was the Brighton railway cup, value 10*l.*, the 2d prize 5*l.*, and the 3d 3*l.* Mr. J. Bristow, gr. to G. Orme, Esq., Broadwater, Worthing, obtained the cup with a superb collection.

In a marquee on the lawn, opposite the Pavilion were the stove and greenhouse plants, among which was a magnificent Pleroma elegans, covered with rich deep bluish-purple flowers. This was exhibited by Mr. Hudson, gr. to F. Barchard, Esq., Horsted Place. Amongst others shown by the same grower were Statice Holfordi, Ixora javanica and coccinea, the bright yellow Allamanda cathartica, and the pink Bougainvillæa glabra. The collections shown by Mr. Parsons, Western Road, Brighton, and Mr. A. Wright, gr. to Mr. R. Morris, St. Leonards, Hastings, were also good, and received deserved attention. Fuchsias, Lilies, Ericas, Balsams, Petunias, Cockscombs were all excellent, and they were arranged so as to be highly effective. In a booth at the north end of the lawn were zonal Pelargoniums and miscellaneous plants and fruits not for exhibition. A collection of hardy Ferns, shown by Messrs. Ivery & Son, Dorking, was highly attractive.

Among designs for flower gardens, that exhibited by Messrs. Geer & Son, Erskine Nursery, Hurst, was exceedingly well done. Mr. Knight, Nurseryman, Hailsham, furnished a large collection of Apples and Pears. There was also a collection of tricolor-leaved Pelargoniums, exhibited by Messrs. F. and A. Smith, Dulwich. Among these a First-class Certificate was awarded to three very handsome varieties, viz., L'Empereur, Impératrice Eugénie, and Murillo, and a Second-class Certificate to Eclipse, Maria, and Defiance. Three plants of Cacti in pots shown by Mr Upton, Brighton, were very large and effective.

Here, too, were 10 pots of Globe Amaranthus exhibited by Mr. Gadd, gr. to C. G. Eversfield, Esq., Denne Park, Horsham. Some long well grown Cucumbers deservedly attracted attention. A new Scarlet-runner Bean named Premier, and the Pea Pre-eminent, shown by Mr Adam Spary, Chailey, received each a First-class Certificate, as did some Orchid pots exhibited by Mr. J. Meeds, Potteries, St. John's Common.

In the banqueting room Variegated-leaved plants were most effective. At the west end was a beautifully-grown Tree Fern, with large, graceful, drooping fronds hovering over a group of most lovely ornamental plants, amongst which were in great perfection Yucca aloifolia variegata, Croton angustifolium, and two well-grown Caladiums, exhibited by Mr.