

The Entomological Exhibition of 1874 comprises four divisions. In the first are to be included all useful insects, which are to be shown, as far as possible, in various stages, from the egg to the perfect insect. If diseased the insect is to be shown in different stages of the disorder. Insect-products also will be shown in their various stages of formation. The plants on which the insect feeds are also to be shown. Monographs and works relating to the subject will likewise be exhibited. Information is requested as to the losses occasioned by insects, and it is incidentally mentioned that the losses occasioned by the silkworm disease (*gattine*) have amounted since 1854 to more than 60 millions of francs yearly. The second division of the exhibition is intended to comprise noxious insects, divided into eight classes, arranged according to the plant affected, each insect being separately studied. The six first classes thus include all cultivated plants, including fruit and forest trees. The seventh class is devoted to insects attacking timber (*bois de construction*), the eighth to insects infesting Truffles and other fungi, the ninth to insects preying on dry organic matters, hair, feathers, wool, &c.; and the tenth to insects parasitical on man and domestic animals. Here, again, as far as possible, the object is to show the insect in all its stages, and to add notes on its habits and transformations. Monographs are also requested of a descriptive character, the insects in question being for the most part well known, but such as will elucidate the habits of the insects.

The losses caused by insects to agriculture may be estimated by hundreds of millions of francs annually. It is sufficient to cite the *Cecidomyia* and the *Alucites* for cereals, the *Phylloxera* and the *Pyralus* for the Vine, the *Dacus* in the case of the Olive, &c.

The third division comprises those parasitic insects which wage war against the aphides, caterpillars, &c., not omitting the mole and the hedge-hog and insectivorous birds. The Society putting a very wide interpretation on the word insect, or rather extending its operations to other noxious animals, includes in its programme snails and slugs, and the mode of averting their ravages, the culture of fishes, leeches, and "astaciculture"—cray fish!—thus comprising aquaria of various descriptions.

It is not sufficient, say the promoters, in continuation, to collect together all the insects and insect-products of general interest to cultivators, it is desirable also to gather together the cultivators themselves, in order that each may communicate his experience for the common benefit. Hence a Congress—*Congrès Insectologique*—is to be instituted.

The work to be done by this Congress is indicated in the programme before us, which raises questions as to the proper mode and time of destroying caterpillars, cockchafers, mole-crickets, &c. Relating to the *Phylloxera* of the Vine, it is asked whether it is the cause, or only a result of disease? How it is that insecticides have, for the most part, been ineffectual against it? If the *Phylloxera* is only a consequence of disease, would it not be advisable to treat the Vine itself by suitable manures?

Other questions relating to the *Phylloxera* are put, such as the explanation of the good effects of submersion, the manner in which the insect travels or is transported from an affected to a healthy Vine. Then, again, it is asked whether the root parasite most generally known in Europe is, or is not, identical with the leaf-insect in America? Whether there is known one or more parasites affecting the *Phylloxera*? Whether there are any particular varieties of Vines which are not attacked by this insect, and whether they can be propagated in France? What is the probable amount of loss caused by

the insect, and what effect it has on the price of wine, its consumption, the influence on railway transit and taxation generally?

Questions are also propounded as to the best method of rearing silkworms, so as to escape the diseases affecting them, such as Muscardine, Pebrine, &c.; and other inquiries are made as to the value of the silkworms raised on the Ailantus and Oak respectively.

It will be seen that the Exhibition and Congress are of the most directly interesting and practical nature, and it is to be hoped that much benefit may accrue from them. Exhibitors and others desirous of taking part should apply to the secretary, Rue Monge, 59, Paris, on or before September 1, for further particulars.

Lectures, it may be added, will be given during the Exhibition by various professors; thus M. DE LA BLANCHÈRE will treat of insects affecting forests; Dr. BOISDUVAL on those injurious to gardens; M. CHAMELIN will treat of silk-culture; M. GUYOTON, the insects attacking cereals; M. LICHTENSTEIN on the *Phylloxera*; M. MILLET on insectivorous birds; M. RAMBOSSON on the habits of insects; M. VALSERRES on legislation affecting insects, &c. So well contrived a programme cannot fail to enlist the sympathies of all concerned.

— We owe to the kindness of Mr. DARWIN the communication of the following, with the specimen to which it refers:—

"I inclose a specimen of the male Hop with apparently female flowers at the tips of the branches, on



FIG. 37.—MONŒCIOUS HOP.

the chance of its having some interest for the naturalist. I observed it this morning, and though accustomed to walk Hop grounds for years I have never seen the two sexes on the same Hop plant before. Perhaps, however, it is but the growth of the flower into a male catkin.

"There are other male plants in the same ground, but I have not seen any other instance of this peculiarity. The whole Hop hill grows in the same way. If we obtain seed, might not it be possible to select a strain of Hops which are uniformly monœcious on the same plant? [Certainly.]

"The Hop ground is in Boughton Monchelsea, facing south, very warm, and of strong rich soil. L. Lewis, East Farleigh."

We are the more interested in this specimen as many years ago a similar instance was brought under our notice by Mr. MASTERS, of Canterbury, and which formed the subject of an interesting notice from his pen in our volume for 1852, p. 597. The case is interesting with reference to the doctrine of Parthenogenesis. The *Cœlebogynæ*, asserted to produce seeds without the formation of male blooms, has now frequently been seen to produce flowers of both sexes. We saw an instance of this lately in the herbarium of Professor BAILLON, of Paris.

— We are glad to learn that a public meeting has been held of the inhabitants of the Broad Street Ward, City, to take steps to prevent the SPOILIATION of DRAPERS' GARDENS, alluded to in former numbers. Mr. DAVID STUART, School House, London Wall, is the Ward clerk.

— Testimonials have become such nuisances, and are sometimes originated on such slight grounds, that we feel it an imperative duty to the public on most occasions to pass them over entirely without notice. In the case of the GIBSON TESTIMONIAL circumstances are different. Mr. GIBSON is a man who has done good public service to botany and horticulture, as an introducer of new plants, as a landscape gardener, and as the introducer of a style of garden decoration at once novel, interesting and beautiful. Mr. GIBSON was the first to introduce the *Amherstia* as well as many Orchids, "invented," if we may so say, "the subtropical style of gardening;" he created Battersea Park, and his untiring efforts led in a great degree to the unparalleled success of the International of 1866. The value of his public services has been enhanced by his modesty, amiability, and willingness to help on all occasions when his help was needed. The time has now come when he himself would be benefited and cheered by the practical sympathy of his many friends. We believe this will be forthcoming, and we refer to our advertising columns to show how this may be done.

— The second HORTICULTURAL EXHIBITION at VIENNA this year is to take place from October 3—7, and will be exclusively limited to fresh fruits and vegetables. It will be held in the Blumen Sälen, No. 12, Parkring. Foreigners will be allowed to compete, but they must signify their intention, either in writing or verbally, a week previous, at the offices of the K. K. Gartenbau Gesellschaft.

— We have frequently pointed out the want in the Royal Horticultural Society of some SPECIAL form of CERTIFICATE particularly destined for NEW or INTERESTING PLANTS of a kind which has no value in the eyes of commercial horticulturists or florists, using the latter word in its special or restricted sense, and which ought not to be judged according to their rules. We hold that the Society should encourage exhibitors to send all or any plants provided they be in any way interesting, and that awards adapted to their peculiar nature should be made to them if they merit it. As matters are at present, a plant which may be of very great interest to the plant-lover and botanist is too often passed over entirely because it does not come up to the standard which is very properly laid down for purely decorative or useful plants, but which is not applicable to the cases under consideration. Desirable as it is on all accounts to encourage useful and ornamental plants, and specially desirable as it is to put a mark of approbation on successful cultivation, we yet hold it to be one of the most important functions of the Society—which is not, or should not, be managed as a mere bazaar—to afford the means of bringing before the public plants likely to be of interest from any point of view whatever. It has been suggested that such plants should be referred from the Floral Committee to the Scientific Committee for award, or not, as they think fit; and that during the period when the Scientific Committee is not sitting, a standing committee of competent persons should be appointed to adjudicate in such cases. The special case which led to these remarks was a very interesting but not very showy species of *Fuchsia*, with neat creeping habit, from New Zealand, and which would, if hardy (as we suppose it is), be hailed by most plant lovers as an interesting and even elegant addition to the rockwork. The plant in question is alluded to under the report of the Society; and we repeat our conviction that the Society fails in its duty when such plants are allowed to pass without an appropriate certificate of approbation.

— The CENTRAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF FRANCE will hold an exhibition of fruits and flowers at their rooms, 84, Rue du Grenelle Saint Germain, Paris, from October 10—14 next.

— Mr. GEORGE JACKMAN has been fortunate enough to obtain a PURPLE-FLOWERED CLEMATIS *FLAMMULA*, which it is proposed to distinguish by the name of *C. Flammula roseo-purpurea*. Several plants identical in character have been observed in a bed of transplanted seedlings of the sweet-scented *Clematis*, and which had been raised from seeds ripened in contiguity to plants of some of the purple-flowered forms of *C. Viticella*. The novelty has quite the appearance of being an accidental hybrid between *C. Flammula* and *C. Viticella*, though in regard to free vigorous habit of growth, abundance of flowering, and strongly-marked Hawthorn-like fragrance it partakes most strongly of its mother-parent, flowering also at the same season—from the middle of July onwards. Our notes of the plant as growing are as follows:—Habit vigorous, resembling that of *C. Flammula*. Stems brownish-purple, striated. Leaves pinnate, the pinnæ ternate, three-lobed, or sometimes with only a single lateral lobe; leaflets ovate or oblong, blunt, apiculate. Flowers abundant on short axillary branches, which develop later flowers from the axils of the bracts, and so become successional bloomers as