THE GARDENERS' CHRONICLE.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1875.

HORTICULTURAL EXHIBITIONS, 1875.

OCTOBER.

2.—Royal Horticultural Society, South Kensington. Meeting of Fruit, Floral, and Scientific Committees.

3.—Messrs. Lane, of Beikhampton, with Mr. H. Van Hulle, Pynacker, Burvenich, and the members of the committee, have had the lion's share of the work, and they have added to their labours by the most bountiful and warm-hearted hospitality, and very heartily on the success of their endeavours, and thank them de tout cœur for the great kindness shewn to our representatives, and the facilities that were offered. The following is a reprint of one of the reports which appears elsewhere.

We trust that the article of M. Baltet on Budding the Peach with Fruit Buds will receive the attention it merits. It is, indeed, singular that so little advantage is taken of the process of grafting with flower or fruit buds. With the exception of some plants intended for forcing we scarcely ever meet with illustrations of the practice, and yet it is neither new nor difficult, while its advantages are obvious. To remove a fruit-bud or a fruit-spur from one tree and transfer it to another is no more difficult than budding or grafting with leaf-buds or scions.

It is only lately that M. Baltet, the eminent pomologist and the able writer, has tried this process with the Peach, at the suggestion, as he says, of one of his employees. M. Baltet, in his most laudable desire to render credit where credit is due, availed himself of his assistant, *who, as he supposes, must have gained the idea from some one else, though he is not able to say from whom. That assistant has a name which suggests that he is of British nationality or descent; at any rate, it is certain that, so far from the practice not being noticed in horticultural works, it is mentioned in several of the leading works on the subject. M. BALTEL, of course, had French works especially in mind, and he may thank us for telling him that THOMAS ANDREW KNIGHT has the credit of introducing this process into this country, and that for support of our remarks we transcribe the following passage from LINDLEY'S Theory of Horticulture:—

"Mr. Knight ascertained that it is possible to transfer the blossom-buds of one plant to another, so as to obtain flowers or fruit from them immediately. He thus fixed on the English Red Rose, and the Pepper Rose, and those buds being abundantly supplied with nutrient, and furnished with a supply of water, he showed that those buds had retained their natural situation. He repeated his experiments at the end of April, and found that the Peach tree with similar success, but in the case of the Pear he found that, if the buds were inserted earlier than the end of April, the leaves became bronchial, and not flowers."

In some interesting remarks on the Insect-killing Powers of Pinguicula, contained in a recent number of the Belgique Horticole, Professor EDWARD MORREN, after describing the structure of the plant, relates how he cultivated some specimens in pots in a swampy soil, keeping them always in the shade, and placing them under glass in winter. In the spring, when the leaves were about six inches in circumference, and were growing about 1 1/2 in., he planted them in the open air in a northern situation, but somewhat sheltered situation, when they immediately began to entrap flies. Their favourite food, it seems, is a small blackfly, two or three millimetres long, found in moist places; but this does not prevent their availing themselves of the greenfly, which infest the peduncle of the plant.

M. MORREN repeated the experiments made by others relative to the action of the leaves of Pinguicula upon coagulated albumen. On May 28 he placed upon some well-developed leaves of Pinguicula upon coagulated albumen. On May 28 he placed upon some well-developed leaves the liquid which percolated from an *Chamaea* nudculis, and placed some other pieces of albumen moistened, some with pure water, others with water sweetened with sugar, on a china plate. The leaves were placed upon the plate in such a way that the Pinguicula leaves, which were not moistened, were not becoming dissolved than the thinnest edges, while others were covered with milde. On examining under the microscope an insect which had been caught in the leaf, together with some of the nucius surrounding it, M. MORREN found numerous monads and Bacteria, together with mycelial threads, Torula, &c.—in a word, the usual accompaniments of putrefaction and fermentation. M. MORREN was further struck by the fact that it was always the same leaf that was entrapped by Pinguicula. He next applied to M. PULI, of Ghent, one of the first entomologists, who recognised the insect, Mycetophila, which he believed to be Esechia fungorum of GEER. The larve had been bred in mycelial threads by Agaricus mutillus. All those found on Pinguicula were females. There is the same sort of special attraction exercised which is undoubtedly possessed by some plants of the insect-catchers and it is thus that Pinguicula goes on altogether independently the capture of insects, and no relation traced between the nutrition of the plants and the number of insects caught. M. MORREN alludes to many other instances wherein serve as insect-catchers by reason of their secretions. On the whole, the author of the Belgique Horticole (as we have already described by him) similar to that of Nepenthes; but he doubts the direction of animal matter by the leaves, and only allows of putrefaction and fermentation. M. MORREN does not seem to have a littus paper to test the acridity of the leaves. He has heard of several species, but nor does he seem to have observed the aggregation in the protoplasm of the leaves described by Mr. DARWIN.

The illustration which we give on page 35 represents the interior of the Winter Garden at Colosse, the scene of the International Horticultural Exhibition. It is of iron and glass, elegant in design, and of magnificent proportions. The central pavilion is entirely covered with apparatus, is full of replications. In this building was given one of the most magnificent productions of the season. It has been the subject of much interest to Prince and the jury. We have had occasion to speak specially of the arrangement as described in the above, and another illustration, we may add that up to this moment, we have received no official intimation of what they are. This is a scene which, in that, in addition to the prize awarded to Messrs. VAYNT, and to which we have already alluded, Mr. R. H. OWEN received a special award which, in any case, was certainly well-deserved.

An Exhibition of Fungi and a Conference of Cryptogamic Botanists will be held at Perth on September 28, and we are informed by Dr. F. CHURCHER WHITE, Ramocho, Perthshire, that they will be held at the exhibiters a large show, which was to be delivered at the earliest opportunity, and singly enough that opportunities will not be wasted.