

1 pint of oil with 2 gallons of water. The oil was given three or four times, and although the foliage never acquired a healthy colour, the plant did not get worse till the leaves dropped in the autumn. I shall therefore see this year how it succeeds, and whether the Phylloxera is destroyed or wants more oil to complete its destruction. Should any Grape grower be unfortunate enough to have this pest on his pot Vines, I should recommend him to try this remedy, so that a decision may be arrived at as to whether paraffin is likely to prove a cure or not. Perhaps the only safe remedy where Vines are planted out is to stamp it out at once by uprooting the Vines, making fresh borders, and planting young ones; still if paraffin oil be found to be a cure, it might be tried in infested Vineries where the soil in the borders is not very deep.—WILLIAM TILLERY, *Welbeck*.

PLANTS IN BLOOM AT ENVILLE ON JAN. 1.

Stove and Greenhouse Plants.

Acacia affinis	Chorozema	Eupatorium odoratum	Poinsettias
Azaleas, various	Carnations, various	Gesneras	Plumbago rosea
Abutilons	Cyclamens	Heliotropes	Roman and other
Amaryllis	Camellias	Habrothamnus elegans	Hyacinths
Æschynanthus	Chrysanthemums	Ixoras	Rhododendrons
Lobbianus	Daphne indica	Lilium tigrinum	Sericographis
Agapanthus umbellatus	Deutzia gracilis	Libonia floribunda	Ghiesbreghtia
Begonias, various	Epacris, various	Mignonette	Spiraea japonica
Bouvardias, in var.	Eranthemum Andersoni	Narcissus, various	Statice
Browallia elata	Epiphyllums	Pelargonium zonale	Salvias
Centropogon Lucyanus	Euphorbia jacquiniæflora	Primulas, double and single	Tydeæa Display
Cinerarias			Tremandra verticillata
Cytisus			Tropæolums
			Tea Roses
			Vincas

Orchids.

Cypripedium insigne	Lælia anceps	Odontoglossum Inseavi	Saccolabium giganteum
barbatum	Lycaste Skinneri	Leopardinum macranthum	Vanda tricolor
nigrum	Oncidium ornithorhynchum	Phalænopsis amabilis	Zygopetalum Mackayi
venustum	Oncidium leucochilum	Schilleriana	crinitum
Calanthe vestita rubra			

G. H.

Plants in Bloom Out-of-doors in Ireland.—The past month has been the wettest I ever remember, but extremely mild. The following plants are in flower in my rock garden, which, though only 20 ft. above sea-level, is a good deal exposed, viz., *Erica carnea* and its suitable companion *E. carnea alba*, *Crocus Imperati*, *Ionopsidium acaule*, *Anemone stellata*, Dean's hybrid Primroses and Polyanthus, *Polygala Chamæbuxus*, *Gentiana acaulis*, Wallflower Belvoir Castle, *Veronica Blue Gem*, *Lithospermum prostratum*, *Hepatica Single Mauve*, *Saxifraga crassifolia*, *Scilla sibirica*, Primroses Double White, Double Peach, and Double Purple.—D. MCC. MAHONY, *The Island, Rochestown, Cork*.

Orchid-flowers and Fog.—Those who possess Orchids are rarely without a number of interesting and beautiful plants in flower. At the present time, when flowers of all kinds are not too plentiful, the occupants of the Orchid-house will compare favourably with the other houses, inasmuch as they are the more valuable because they come in naturally without forcing or coaxing of any kind, and consequently are more durable than those which have been stimulated into bloom. Among others now in flower may be named *Calanthe Veitchii*, *C. vestita rubra*, *C. vestita lutea*, the winter-flowering variety of *C. veratrifolia*, *Dendrobium nobile*, *D. Wardianum*, *D. crassinode*, *Odontoglossum Alexandræ*, *O. membranaceum*, *O. Rossi*, *Lælia autumnalis*, *L. anceps*, *Cattleya Trianaei*, *Cymbidium Mastersi*, *Cypripedium insigne* and its varieties, one of which, called *C. insigne punctatum violaceum*, is superior to the very fine *C. insigne Maulei* (true); *Lycaste Skinneri*, *L. lanipes*, *Sophranitis coccinea*, *Oncidium cheiroporum*, *O. ornithorhynchum*, the *Phalænopsis*, &c. These are all very beautiful varieties, different specimens of some of which, as, for example, *Dendrobium nobile*, *D. Wardianum*, and *D. crassinode*, will be in flower for the next six months. The worst antagonist against which the cultivator of Orchids (particularly in and around London) has to contend is the fog. For a long time it puzzled Orchid growers to give a reason why the flower-buds of certain varieties of Orchids (particularly those of the *Phalænopsis*) should frequently in winter turn yellow and die; it seemed strange that the fully-expanded flowers did not appear to be injured: the very small buds also escaped. It was very disappointing to lose the flowers when they were most wanted. Ultimately, on comparing notes, it was found that whenever one collection was injured in this way, the others in the same neighbourhood were in a like condition, and it was remarked that the mischief always occurred immediately after a heavy fog,

and thus the evil was, I believe, traced to its proper origin. I have never heard of any prescribed remedy against the ill effects of fog on the flower-buds of Orchids, but the course which I pursue is simple and generally efficacious. At the approach of fog I have the houses shut up closely, the floors and underneath the stages sprinkled with water to produce humidity, and the flower-buds lightly syringed. The houses are kept closed and the atmosphere in them moist until the fog has disappeared, when if it have been of any duration, the flower-buds are again lightly syringed, placing the plants in the walk to syringe them, so that the drip may not fall on the other plants. If treated in this way the greater part of the mischief will be averted, although many buds may be lost by the night fogs.—JAMES O'BRIEN.

Wood Pavements.—A printed circular has been sent to us containing the following statements in reference to this subject:—Wood pavements have been laid down in New York for thirty years, and are now altogether condemned. New York surveyors have described them as "worse than worthless." Twenty-one miles of them in New York are now being removed. None of them have lasted five years. The New York surveyor states that the yearly repairs for stone in 1874 was £87 per mile; for wood, £392 per mile. Are ratepayers prepared to pay a rate for paving four times in excess of that now paid? We have had experience of it in London. Thirty years ago it was laid down in Oxford Street, and was generally condemned by the shopkeepers as a stinking nuisance, and it was soon discarded. It is the dirtiest of all pavements, the most expensive, and the most unhealthy. Five streets in the City laid with it six years ago have been all condemned and laid with asphalt. The last report from New York is dated June 30, 1876, and it says: "It is useless, however, to deplore the errors of the past, doubtless attributable in this case, as in many others, to the combined influence of jobbery and ignorance." If this course of action on the part of the vestries be not resisted, in four years the paving rate will be at least 1s. in the £. Wood was laid in King William Street four years ago. It has since then been entirely re-laid, and is moreover in constant repair, no part of it lasting three years at the most, and some scarcely two years.

NOTES AND QUESTIONS—VARIOUS.

Frame Coverings.—Would not the paillassons or straw mats so universally employed in France answer "South Italy's" requirements? They will keep out 10° of frost, and if made so that the straw runs from the top downwards when put on they will shoot off much rain, or at any rate will not retain so much wet as if made in any other way. They should be made of good Rye straw, which should be cut just before the grain is ripe, being then much tougher than if cut later, and consequently lasting longer. Their manufacture is universally known, and practised on the Continent, and may be learned in a few lessons.—J. CORNHILL, *Byfleet*.

—I use lashed Wheat straw mats for covering frames. They are made in the following manner:—I take two pieces of tar twine of equal length and place them 20 in. apart; on the middle of these I place eight or ten straws, cross the twine, and pull tight; I then add more straw, and thus proceed until the mat is of the length required. They make strong, light coverings, and form efficient plant protectors.—W. N., *Preston*.

Thuja Lobbi (see p. 576, Vol. X.).—I have just measured a specimen of this Conifer, a small plant of which was planted in February, 1862. Its height is now 35 ft. Another planted subsequently is nearly 31 ft. in height. The latter is the most beautiful, being much broader at the base than the other, and would have been taller, but it was severely root-pruned for removal a year or two ago. Its appearance has been much improved by thinning some of the lateral branches, which makes it less dense and much more graceful.—JOHN GARLAND, *Killerton, Exeter*.

Scarcity of Holly Berries.—Scarcity is hardly the right term, for, as a rule, there are none at all; spring frosts and summer drought are the reasons generally assigned for their absence; Mr. Darwin, however, in a contemporary, ascribes it to the want of bees. It may be so, but upon that hypothesis, it is difficult to account for occasional plants bearing a full complement of berries, as is the case here; one plant coralled over, and perhaps 10,000 without a berry. How could the bees confine themselves to one only?—D. T. FISH.

Slugs and Rare Perennials.—I never remember slugs so numerous as this season, having killed some hundreds in a few days; fortunately the weather is mild, and they do not bury themselves in the soil, but may be found under leaves lodged at the edge of Grass. Put Cabbage leaves at intervals of from 4 ft. to 6 ft. apart on the beds, sprinkle a pinch of bran under each leaf, and reverse them every morning when destroying the slugs. Look especially after *Crocus Imperati*, some of the *Liliums*, *Aster alpinus*, and small *Hellebores*, as these latter are eaten into the earth before one can see that the plant has started into growth.—BERKS.

Crocuses eaten by Mice and Rats.—I should feel obliged by any of your readers informing me how to prevent mice and rats from scratching up and eating *Crocus* bulbs in beds and borders.—W. T., *Market Harborough*.

Manure for Shrubs and Trees.—Can a cheap artificial manure, either in liquid form or otherwise, be recommended to promote the growth of ornamental shrubs and trees?—K. L. D.

Potatoes and Cocoa-nut Fibre.—Would it be a good plan in planting Potatoes in a heavy soil to cover the sets with 2 in. or 3 in. of Cocoa-nut fibre before putting the soil over them?—G. S. M.