

— **CARROTROOT PLANTS.**—Mr. Peter HENNINGSEN, according to the *Gardener's Monthly*, has been repeating Mr. LEECHER's experiments on feeding the leaves of *Daucus Muriolica* with fish. The most careful examination and comparison failed to show the slightest difference between one leafed plant that had been fed and one leafed that had not been fed. Mr. HENNINGSEN, however, does not tell us in what his most careful examination consisted. It seems probable from the opening paragraph of his letter that he has only read a brief abstract of Mr. F. DEWEYER's observations, and has not seen the record of facts and figures which is our thinking prove very conclusively that a benefit does result, although it is not obvious to the unaided observation. Meanwhile it is certain that the function of digestion does not adhere to the long life of the particular leaf or portion. In going through a morning the other day we noticed several plants of *Lactucastris scariola* from the daisy suggested by an accumulation of dead leaves.

spadix, 6 feet long, and its leaf, covering an area of 45 feet, with the tiny Orchid with leaves and flowers each about one-eighth of an inch in diameter, mentioned by Baron VON MUELLER in the following letter:—

"More than twenty years ago the late W. S. MCLEAY showed to the writer a very minute creeping Orchid, from the vicinity of Port Jackson, highly remarkable for its extremely small disk-like leaves. The little plant in Mr. MCLEAY'S conservatory was at the time not in flower, nor could subsequently any flowers be obtained, as the plant seems to have been lost. He told me, however, that he had examined it in a flowering state, and had found it to be a *Dendrobium*; hence temporary notice was taken of this singular plant as *Dendrobium minutissimum* in the *Fragmenta* and also in the *Flora Australiensis*. The plant was lost sight of until very recently Mr. FAWCETT rediscovered it on the Richmond River, and forwarded fruiting specimens. At my request this zealous investigator of the Richmond River vegetation secured at last the flowers of this pigmy plant, which prove it to be a true *Bolbophyllum*, to which the name *B. minutissimum* is now given. The leaves are sessile, on a creeping rhizome, often forming braadlike series, on which account the name *B. moniliforme* might be employed for the species, as first adopted by Mr. MCLEAY, though that name is preoccupied in *Dendrobium*. The leaves are orbicular, flat, horizontal, and only one-eighth or one-sixth of an inch in diameter! Thus this Orchid has the smallest leaves of all in the whole order. Indeed, seeing the plant creeping among mosses, the observer might take it for a species of the *Hepaticæ*. The flowers are singly produced on peduncles hardly longer than the leaves, while the wee red flowers measure also only one-sixth of an inch. The affinity of this *Bolbophyllum* is with *B. lichenastrum*, but its dimensions are much less, and the disk-like leaves are thinly cartilaginous and adnate to the centre. While thus East Australia possesses the dwarfest of all Orchids, it counts among its plants also the one with minutest flowers, namely, *Oberonia palmicola*."

— THE LATE MR. M'NAB.—The following story is going the round of the Press—credited to the *World*:—

"A story is sent to me about the late Mr. M'NAB, curator of the Edinburgh Botanical Gardens. When DUBUFE'S celebrated paintings of ADAM and EVE were on exhibition, Mr. M'NAB was taken to see them, and was asked for his opinion. 'I think no great things of the painter,' said the great gardener. 'Why, man, EVE'S temptin' ADAM with a Pippin of a variety that wasna known until about twenty years ago.' As genuine a bit of criticism as that of the farmer, who told GEORGE MORLAND that he had never seen eight little pigs feeding without one of them having his feet in the trough. MORLAND altered the picture."

The story has a basis of truth in it, but the anachronism complained of was a hybrid perpetual Rose—the product of the skill of the gardener—not an Apple—which formed part of the flora of the Garden of Eden. After all, we know so very little of the contents of the Garden of Eden and of the skill of the "grand old gardener," that the painter might retort upon the gardener of to-day that he knew nothing of the doings of his great ancestor. That Mr. M'NAB was consulted on such matters we ourselves can personally testify. Some few years since we were in a shop in Edinburgh with Mr. M'NAB, when a gentleman, whom we afterwards found to be Sir NOEL PATON, hearing Mr. M'NAB'S name mentioned, inquired of the shopman if that was the celebrated Mr. M'NAB, and on being told that it was, the painter proceeded to ask some question as to the plant which had furnished the "Crown of Thorns," when a conversation ensued as to the anachronisms of GUIDO, CORREGGIO, and other painters, who introduced the spines of *Gleditschia*, an American tree, into their pictures, in illustration of an event which occurred fifteen or sixteen centuries before the discovery of America. If we remember rightly it was *Paliurus aculeatus* which Mr. M'NAB considered to have probably furnished the Crown of Thorns.

— THE GARDENERS' ROYAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.—The annual general meeting of the members of this Society is announced to be held at the Bedford Hotel, Covent Garden, on Thursday, January 16 next, for the purpose of receiving the report of the committee and the accounts of the Institution for the present year, and electing officers for the ensuing year, and also for placing seven pensioners on the funds. The committee recommend that the following seven applicants—whose cases have been

investigated and found in every way satisfactory, and who, or their husbands, have been subscribers for over fifteen years—be placed on the pension list without the trouble or expense of an election, in accordance with Rule No. 6.

JOHN CAMIS, of Bramdean, Alresford, aged 80, subscriber of £1 1s. yearly for twenty years.

THOMAS FREEMAN, of Spath, Uttoxeter, aged 61, subscriber of £1 1s. yearly for sixteen years.

WILLIAM GARDENER, of Manorfield, Aberdeen, aged 76, subscriber of £1 1s. yearly for twenty-four years.

ANN GODFREY, of Terling, Witham, Essex (widow of the late JAMES GODFREY), aged 79, subscriber of £1 1s. yearly for thirty-four years.

MARY KIMP, of Brompton (widow of the late B. KIMP, of Exeter), aged 64, subscriber of £1 1s. yearly for twenty-eight years.

JOHN MARTIN, of Farningham, Kent, aged 68, subscriber of £1 1s. yearly for thirty-five years.

ADAM TAYLOR, of Foots Cray, Kent, aged 68, subscriber of £1 1s. yearly for eighteen years.

— CARNIVOROUS PLANTS.—MR. PETER HENDERSON, according to the *Gardeners' Monthly*, has been repeating Mr. DARWIN'S experiments on feeding the leaves of *Dionæa Muscipula* with flies. The most careful examination and comparison failed to show the slightest difference between one hundred plants that had been fed and one hundred that had not been fed. Mr. HENDERSON, however, does not tell us in what his most careful examination consisted. It seems probable from the opening paragraph of his letter that he has only read a brief abstract of Mr. F. DARWIN'S observations, and has not seen the record of facts and figures which to our thinking prove very conclusively that a benefit does result, although it is not obvious to the mere casual observation. Meanwhile it is certain that the function of digestion does not conduce to the long life of the particular leaf or pitcher. In going through a nursery the other day we noticed several pitchers of *Darlingtonia* rotten from the decay engendered by an accumulation of dead insects.

— NITRO-PHOSPHATE AND ODAMS' CHEMICAL MANURE COMPANY.—We are requested to state that the chief offices of this company have been removed to more commodious premises at 116, Fenchurch Street, facing the top of Mark Lane.

— TWO NEW EXPERIENCES.—A long life leads some to exclaim there is no new thing under the sun. What, then, must be the feelings of Cleopatra's Needle, whose prismatic summit now bears a cap of snow such as it probably never wore before, and whose sides are now nightly illumined by the electric light! The effect of the capping of snow, and of the drift in the incised figures, is weird and striking; and among all the varied experiences to which this obelisk has been subjected, these must surely be the most novel.

— ODONTOGLOSSUM LINDENI and the rare *Saccolabium pertusum*, also *Oncidium ornithorhynchum albiflorum* (deliciously sweet) are amongst the many novelties in flower at Parkfield Hall, Worcester (C. W. LEA, Esq.), under the charge of Mr. JOHN COX.

— THE LATE LIVERPOOL CHRYSANTHEMUM SHOW.—We have received from Mr. J. KENTISH, secretary of the Maidstone Gardeners' Mutual Improvement Society, a copy of a letter which has been sent on behalf of that Society to Mr. OLLERHEAD, thanking him "for exposing the very disgraceful conduct at the recent Liverpool Chrysanthemum show." The Society also thanks the Editors of this journal for publishing Mr. OLLERHEAD'S statement.

— THE GARDENERS' MAGAZINE.—The Christmas number of our contemporary is filled with a great variety of illustrations, some of a very amusing character, albeit a little satirical. The letterpress is similarly varied; sound teaching, bubbling fun, good nonsense, and sentimental romance, all find a place in our contemporary's Christmas number, which moreover is further adorned by an almanac in colours.

— TODEA WILKESIANA.—A very fine specimen of this superb species, a native of the Fiji Islands, introduced and sent out a few years ago by Messrs. VEITCH & SONS, of Chelsea, may be seen in the fernery at Davenham Bank, Malvern Links, the seat of J. D. PERRIN, Esq. It is over 3 feet in diameter, and is planted in the rockwork, where it

stands on a very prominent point, its beautiful fronds forming a graceful plume-like head, which is very attractive. The plant is undoubtedly one of the finest of the species, and well worthy the attention of those planting.

— A GERMAN VIEW OF ENGLISH GARDENING.—Our comments in a recent number (p. 757) on some articles on English gardening &c., which appeared in the *Deutsche Gärtner-Zeitung*, have been the cause of our receiving a letter from the author, wherein he states that he was animated by no bad motives, that he wrote from a German point of view for Germans, and that we have misrepresented him. We find that we unintentionally made him say that the greater part of the Asparagus sold in Covent Garden is imported from Paris, whereas he was alluding to forced Asparagus at Christmastide. The author also reminds us that he has written articles which have been highly appreciated in this country. We do not doubt it for a moment, but we had not those articles under consideration; and we still maintain that he was wrong in the assertion pointed out, though he declares our adverse criticisms arose from a defective knowledge of the German language. Celery, he states, is called *Celeriac* in some parts of Germany; Mistletoe is rare in England as compared with Germany, and he wrote of cooking by and for the labouring classes. Let those who are interested in the matter, and understand German better than we, judge between us.

— CRASSULA LACTEA.—For the decoration of a conservatory at this season of the year this is a most lovely plant, and it is also useful for cutting from. We saw it the other day in large quantities at the nurseries of Messrs. E. & J. PERKINS, of Leominster. Plants in 48-pots were producing as many as six beautiful spikes of lovely white flowers, so valuable at this season of the year; and as it is also easy to grow it is well worthy the attention of those requiring a good useful decorative plant.

— NORTH AMERICAN WILLOWS.—Professor C. S. SARGENT, Director of the Botanic Garden of Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., informs us that cuttings of the following North American Willows can now be supplied by mail to the correspondents of that establishment. They have been grown and determined by Mr. M. S. BEBB, of Illinois, who has devoted many years to the study and collection of the genus *Salix*. Applications, indicating by number the species or varieties desired, should be received before February 1, 1879.

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| 1. <i>Salix nigra</i> , Marsh. ♂ and ♀. | 17. <i>S. humilis</i> , Marsh. ♂ and ♀. |
| 2. <i>S. amygdaloides</i> , Anders. | 18. " var. <i>longifolia</i> , Anders. ♂ and ♀. |
| 3. <i>S. lucida</i> , Muhl., var. <i>latifolia</i> , ♂ and ♀. | 19. <i>S. tristis</i> , Ait. |
| 4. <i>S. lasiandra</i> , Benth. ♂ and ♀. | 20. <i>S. cordata</i> , Muhl. ♂ and ♀. |
| 5. <i>S. longifolia</i> , Muhl. ♂ and ♀. | 21. " var. <i>rufescens</i> , Hort. |
| 6. <i>S. discolor</i> , Muhl. ♂ and ♀. | 22. " var. <i>rufescens</i> . Foliis initio tomentosis, capsulis e basi crassa breviter ovato-conicis. |
| 7. " var. <i>eriocephala</i> . Amentis molliter villosis densifloris, foliis subtus rufescenti-tomentosis. | 23. <i>S. pyrifolia</i> , Anders. ♂ and ♀. |
| 8. <i>S. rostrata</i> , Richards, var. <i>obovata</i> , Anders. ♂ and ♀. | 24. <i>S. adenophylla</i> , Hook. ♀. |
| 9. " <i>Forma foliis oblanceolatis basi attenuatis, stipulis semi-ovatis serratis</i> . ♀. | 25. <i>S. Barclayi</i> , Anders. ♂ and ♀. |
| 10. <i>S. myrtilloides</i> , L., var. <i>pedicellaris</i> . | 26. <i>S. myricoides</i> , Muhl. ♀ (<i>sericea</i> × <i>cordata</i>). |
| 11. <i>S. petiolaris</i> , Smith. <i>Forma typica</i> . ♀. | 27. " var. <i>angustata</i> . Capsulis primo tenuiter sericeis, demum, glabratiss. ♀. |
| 12. " var. <i>gracilis</i> , Anders. ♂ and ♀. | 28. " var. <i>subsericea</i> . Capsulis griseo-tomentosis. ♀. |
| 13. " <i>Forma monstrosa</i> . | 29. <i>S. rubella</i> , Bebb. ♂ (<i>candida</i> × <i>cordata</i>). |
| 14. <i>S. sericea</i> , Marsh. ♂ and ♀. | 30. <i>S. candida</i> , Willd. |
| 15. " <i>Forma amentis cylindricis</i> 1 — 1½ poll. longis. | 31. <i>S. Clarkii</i> , Bebb. ♀ (<i>petiolaris</i> × <i>candida</i>). |
| 16. " <i>Forma amentis brevioribus</i> ½ poll. longis. | 32. " var. <i>subpetiolaris</i> . Foliis subtus demum glabriusculis. ♀. |
| | 33. " var. <i>subcandida</i> . Foliis subtus niveo-tomentosis. |

Mr. SARGENT will be glad to receive cuttings of other species, including all Asiatic species and forms, in exchange.

— A CAUTION TO GARDENERS AND NURSERYMEN.—We learn from a Sussex paper that the interesting individual against whose practices we cautioned our readers at p. 727, paid a visit to Chichester last week, and called on Mr. H. H. MOORE, florist, Orchard Street, in that town, giving the name of Mr. MILES, the well-known nurseryman of Cliftonville,