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AND

AGRICULTURAL GAZETTE

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naturally occupied the first place. The latter seem to have been, on the whole, most appreciated. A large company of botanical and horticultural societies met last week at the Rhine, and Prof. Kries, the privileges of seeing more than is usually opened to the public, and a more intelligent and refined interest in botanical and landscape gardening is now to be met with.

The old gardens of Sans Souci, so far as they remain untouched (for some touch of Nature has been given to them), are, according to our English taste, an admirable instance of "the frightful example" to be shewn to the public. Come with the spirit of the French school of gardening, we have seen how far Nature can be improved upon. It is a study, and not a conventionality put in her place—the stiff formalities, the trite feminities, the bare roundness of her head. The beauty of a flower, day, just as Frederick the Great left them, and one almost involuntarily expects to come upon an ancient courtier in full figure, posturing and grimacing like a French dancing-master, amidst the great Orange trees which were just being brought out of their houses under the rays of the delightful weather. A contrast to all this is the treatment of the pleasure-ground of Prince Charles of C. on the Elbe. There all is Nature, or at least seems to be so. It is Nature guided by Art. In saying this we allude only to the horticultural and arboricultural parts of the grounds. There are various groves and temples decorated with fragments of ancient buildings or statues, and the palace, itself, modest, or overgrown with vegetation, has many such fragments, which had been picked up by Prince Charles himself in his travels. What of this—some people like it, we don't—it is a question of taste, so are many monstrosities, flower-pots and gravel walks. But the charming and edgings of crockery. Our honoured Rev. M. J. Berkeley might, if so disposed, repose himself amidst the garden city, there being not what we allude to, it is the treatment of the woods and grounds of which we speak. That description of a place of this kind—good made to grow by constant watering; the trees are luxuriant, of fine growth, and of the most beautiful of colors, brought together in the most happy combinations; and everywhere here and there a view is opened upon portions of the surrounding banks of the Elbe. We have alluded to the beauty of the grounds, which may, no doubt, of those Royal palaces at Babelsberg and Sans Souci, are situated on the banks or within sight of the Elbe, and which are there nestled amongst wooded hills. The palace of Prince Charles is on the bank of one of these, and the great charm of his grounds is the view which is presented to the spectator. We have glanced at the loveliest portions of these lakes and wooded heights are revealed to the spectator. It is impossible to describe the charm of these little landscapes framed in verdure. Suddenly out of a thick green screen a beam of brightness bursts upon the spectator, the bright blue sky and blue water flashing on the eye like the central object of a fine picture, and giving it interest and vitality. These charming pictures have obviously all been formed with the most minute care and consideration, and is it in the Prince himself who has done it.

The commencement was indeed the work of others;—firstly, he generously conceded the title of first living landscape gardener of the day, Prince Puckler Muskau. Prince Charles of a small principality near Berlin, but a king in all that concerns the intelligent gardener, Mr. Grisel, the architect of the Prince Puckler Muskau himself.

Of Mr. Bobbi's garden, perhaps the most unusual feature is an iron Pith-house, constructed on the telescopic principle. It has pillars which can be drawn out and in, like the draw-bar of a coach; and when the pith grows, another stage can be added to it by pushing out joints from its pillars, and fitting windows to them. His Orchis-houses are full of rare plants, coming nearer those of Mr. Stein, Rucker, at Wandsbrough, for health and vigour, that any other we know of, although not for size.

In the Botanic Gardens, the collection of ferns—feathered fronds of the most varied shapes and sizes—contains an extraordinary collection of species of Marsileaceae (one of the subjects to which Mr. Baker has given so much attention) with which and which—both the subject and the plants—he has cultivated with rare success, and more than one house full of the remarkable Sempervivums and Euphorbies, as well as the various ornamental plants, which are among the subjects which come uppermost to our minds. Last, but not least, we should like to have described more at length the garden visited to their visitors by the Berlin Professors and men of science; but this is neither the place nor the time for it, nor would it perhaps be becoming in us to do so.

The Prize of £5 for an essay on the Variegated Zonal Pelargonium, to form a basis for discussion at a meeting of exhibitors and others, to be held at the Royal Agricultural Hall on the 1st of July, was awarded to Mr. P. Griffin, of Cuffley, the author of an excellent treatise on this family of plants, of which indeed he may be designated the founder. We understand that seven essays were sent in. In reviewing some of the essays, we think that after the selection of the above, a second paper would be required for a landscape garden, for which Mr. John M. C. A. Grant, of Liverpool, was considered sufficiently meritorious to be recommended. The essays were by Mr. Morris, of Desford; Mr. Andrew Henderson, of St. John's Wood; and Mr. P. T. Wright, of Edinburgh.

We lately recorded several instances showing the apparent success of the variegated Abutilon. It was found by more than one cultivator that when the variegated Abutilon was sent out of the house, the other Abutilon, it often happened that shoots bearing variegated foliage were produced from the stock. With this view we, of course, supposed that this was a case showing the influence of the light, and out of the thousands of plants collected in the course of our work, it is not impossible that some Abutilon had a habit of producing shoots with variegated foliage, irrespective of any granting. In the Variegated A. speciosissimum, the leaf is large and bright, as can be seen in the illustration, sent us by M. Van Hoyt. As it is not now a fact that the stock produced variegated leaves—even more beautifully variegated than the leaves themselves, which, on account from the stock, the leaves on the latter became wholly green. In this case, then, it is reasonable to suppose that the leaves seem armed with variegated foliage, and, indeed, leaves from the stock was in some way due to the position, for which reason the leaves disappeared from the graft. Mokey vaccinated the stock.

We are glad to find that at an important meeting held in the City of Royal Dublin Society, on Tuesday, one of the objects of which was the promotion of the Adulteration of Seeds. The co-operation of members of Parliament was solicited, and the resolutions adopted were to be sent to various recipients to the progress of the Bill. Most of the Dublin firms were represented, and the second reading of the Bill is fixed for the 10th of this month. The commercial interest of the consumer and the honour of the dealer at heart, to support this attempt to do away with a prohibitory and generally unpopular evil, will naturally be approached for us to—more pity than I have received here. The Commissioners: Where do you live?—Mr. A.: I am the Superintendent of the Trades Conservatory. Mr. B.: As my appearance shows that in my situation I am always dressed warmly, it is obvious for being so badly clothed—Mr. A.: It is all through the climate, Mr. B.: I do not like the idea of not being able to see the attacks of mildew, which spoil its beauty, and sometimes death. Swiftly:—

New Plants.

Dendrophylax, new. [p. 593.]

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