

Home Correspondence.

The Orchids at Herrenhausen.—When lately at this place I felt exceedingly happy to see the good state of the Orchids, finding many of the old friends I had seen when I was there the first time—autumn, 1854. I was struck to see a very rich collection of *Masdevallias* just growing like weeds or at least as *Asparagus*. There was a very splendid festoon of *Renaanthera Lowii*. My friend, Herr Hofgaertner Wendland, excused his plant for having this year but one inflorescence, taking away some leaves of a leaf plant which sheltered three big bairns peeping out of the very base of the plant. They were guilty of there being but one inflorescence. The old specimens of *Lælia superbiens*—sent, I believe, by Mr. Kinear—were growing in 1854 on their blocks; proving that under great attention the block system is suitable even for old-established plants. What surprised me the most of all was to see *Mormodes Wendlandi* from Mr. Wendland's journey 1856, and some old *Catseta* and *Cycnoches* spared since 1854. I asked instantly for the secret how to keep them. "No secret at all," replied Herr Wendland; "in summer time they are roasted in the Victoria-house, never obtaining the least shade (when I heard this I wished for Mr. Domy, who likes so much a chat about shading); and then in winter they are kept in full light, rather dry and not warm at all." There were very many species in flower for the miserable season of November. There is no doubt that a visit to the Orchids of Herrenhausen will repay every visitor, the more so if guided by Herr Wendland, not to speak of the chief glory of the place, the wonderfully vigorous Palms and Cycads, no doubt the richest collection in the world. *H. G. Rehb. f.*

White Flowers.—In a small garden on the Brighton downs, usually carpeted with balbous flowers from February till June, I gathered bloom of the *Anemone japonica* alba after Christmas Day last year, the plant having flowered in profusion from early in August, and from which I had, occasionally, removed the seeds as developed. Notwithstanding a most disastrous season, there was a supply of white *Chrysanthemums* also gathered just before Christmas. *W. E. Heathfield.*

Indian Irrigation.—Referring to your paragraph at p. 18—you say that irrigation may be most desirable where Rice is the staple crop, but for other crops it is not adapted. As the Indian Government have quite lately estimated that one and a half million per annum must be set aside to provide for the effects of future famine, it is evident that droughts must be frequently expected. How Millet, Rape, and Pulse can be grown in a hot climate like that of India during a drought, without a supply of water from irrigation works, is a difficult problem. When we know from the Government Blue-books that in the heart of the famine-stricken districts of Madras there have been certain tracts irrigated by Sir Arthur Cotton which have not suffered at all from the effects of the drought, but have actually been growing rapidly rich from the famine prices obtained for their crops, not of Rice only, it is evident that during famines which must be looked for irrigation works are indispensable. Undoubtedly the unjustifiable destruction of forests must be one of the causes of these often recurring "visitations," and now that the attention of the country has been so much turned to our responsibilities in regard to India, it is to be hoped the interests of its 250,000,000 inhabitants will secure the continued watchful care that is due from us. *R. Bians, Derby.*

The Dutch Tulips at the Approaching Paris Exhibition.—It will indeed be sincerely to be regretted if, after the elaborate and carefully studied national design in which the splendid contribution of 40,000 double Tulips sent by the city of Haarlem for the adornment of the gardens at the Paris Exhibition have been planted, the flowering of these beautiful bulbs should take place at the commencement of the month of April, and be all over and the beauty gone before the opening of the Exhibition on May 1. It was thought by some that the blooming might be retarded a little by artificial means, such as covering up the beds and not allowing them to feel the heat of the sun, but should these unnatural means be resorted to I much fear that the bloom when it is allowed to take place will be much marred in its beauty, if not altogether spoiled. *W. E. G.*

Plants in Flower at Mortola, near Mentone.—I enclose a list of plants in flower in the open air here in my garden to-day (Jan. 1, 1878). In spite of the excessive dryness and heat of the summer and autumn, this list does not compare unfavourably with that I sent you at this time last year. No rain fell here between the end of June and October 24, during the

whole of which time the weather was hot, often with parching winds, and no dew at night. Gardeners in England can scarcely have an idea of the drought that prevails during the summer, and those who imagine that everything succeeds here without much care, owing to the delightful winter climate we enjoy, would appreciate the great difficulty there is to contend with from the lack of moisture if they visited this coast before the autumn rain has fallen; my garden then presents the most miserable appearance, and a casual observer would suppose half the plants were dead, but marvellous is the change after a few hours of steady rain. The crop of Olives is again very poor, especially on the hillsides facing the south, where the trees are exposed to the full blaze of the summer sun. No such unfavourable season for wine has occurred for many years; and the Phylloxera, though it has not yet made its appearance in Italy, is reported at Cimiez near Nice, and will doubtless extend to this region ere long, notwithstanding the precautions taken for some time past at the frontier to exclude all vegetable substances in which it could harbour. Of Lemons there appears to be an average yield, but many trees are attacked by a blight resembling mealy-bug; thus, the prospects of the people of this coast are not brilliant; fortunately there is for them a fourth and less precarious crop which is ever increasing—I allude to the prosperity caused by the extraordinary number of well-to-do people, who now come to various places along the coast between Marseilles and Genoa to enjoy the sunshine and clear air which winter denies them in northern climes. How great is the difference between this and England may be imagined when I state that, during December, no fog or mist was observable except on the mountains; rain only fell on one day, and twenty-three days were entirely sunny. *Casimiroa edulis* lately attracted attention in your columns. It seems to thrive well in my garden, and a young tree over 8 feet high has made good progress lately. *Thomas Hanbury.*

Plants Growing in the Open Air in the Garden of the Palazzo Orsini, Mortola, near Mentone, in flower on Jan. 1, 1878:—

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|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Acacia iteaphylla          | Iberis sempervirens       |
| " lophantha speciosa       | Jasminum azoricum         |
| " obliqua                  | " nudiflorum              |
| " retinoides               | " officinale              |
| Agathaea collestis         | Justicia arborea          |
| Antonia capensis           | Kleinia articulata        |
| Alstromeria aurantiaca     | " ficoides                |
| " ciliaris                 | " nerifolia               |
| Antirrhinum                | Lavandula multifida       |
| Aloysia citrodora          | " pinnata                 |
| Anemone coronaria          | Linum trigynum            |
| Aralia papyrifera          | Lobelia (varieties)       |
| " Sieboldii                | Lophospermum scandens     |
| " heisterfolia             | Malva fragrans            |
| Arbutus Andrachne          | " capensis                |
| Arum Arisarum              | Maurandia Barclayana      |
| Aster elongatus            | Mesembryanthemum tigrinum |
| " muricatus                | Moricandia arvensis       |
| Bougainvillea glabra       | Montagnæa mollissima      |
| " Warsceviczii             | Narcissus, many           |
| Bouvardia leiantha         | Osteospermum moniliferum  |
| Buddleia americana         | Ochnona carnea            |
| " Lindleyana               | " tripliraria             |
| " madagascariensis         | Pachyphylla bracteosa     |
| " salicifolia              | Passiflora princeps       |
| Callitris quadrivalvis     | Petunia (varieties)       |
| Cassia grandiflora         | Physanthus undulatus      |
| Casuarina quadrivalvis     | Plumbago capensis         |
| Ceratonia siliqua          | Polygonum platycentrum    |
| Cestrum roseum             | Rosa Banksii fl. simplice |
| Chironanthus Cheiri        | " many vars.              |
| Chimonanthus fragrans      | Rheea coccinea            |
| Chrysanthemum feniculaceum | Resmarinus officinalis    |
| " frutescens               | Rhus excisa               |
| Cubæa scandens             | " trifoliata              |
| Colletia bictoniensis      | Russelia juncea           |
| " spinosa                  | Salvia azurea             |
| Conyza glutinosa           | " coccinea                |
| Convolvulus mauritanicus   | " eriocalyx               |
| Correa alba                | " farinosa                |
| " cardinalis               | " frutescens              |
| Corylus Avellana           | " Grahami                 |
| Cotyledon luridum          | " Heeriana                |
| " macranthum               | " lantanzefolia           |
| Cyperus alternifolius      | " leonarioides            |
| " strigosus                | " princeps                |
| Datura innoxia             | Schinus Mulli             |
| Datura alba                | Senecio angulatus         |
| Diplazium filifolius       | " longifolius             |
| Echeveria me allicii       | " macrolossus             |
| Eriobrya japonica          | " mikanioides             |
| Eriocapillus africanus     | " oxyriefolius            |
| Ephedra altissima          | Solanum cyananthum        |
| Encalyptus globulus        | " jasminoides             |
| " resinifera               | Solanum robustum          |
| Euryops Athanasie          | " verbascifolium          |
| Eupatorium micranthum      | Sparmannia africana       |
| Euphorbia gibbosa          | Stajelia quinque nervis   |
| " splendens                | " normalis                |
| Geranium (many varieties)  | Tecoma capensis           |
| Globularia Alyssum         | " stans                   |
| Gomphostigma scoparioides  | Templetonia retusa        |
| Hakea Manglesi             | Veronica (many var.)      |
| Hardenbergia mono phylla   | Vitæa major               |
| Helleboropium peruvianum   | Vittadenia trifida        |
| Helleborus viridis         | Yucca Treculeana          |

The Flowering of Pelargoniums in Winter.—Referring to a paragraph in each of your two last issues on the production of Pelargonium blooms in midwinter, allow me to say that it is by no means such a recent innovation as some of your many readers will doubtless be led to infer. Your correspondents, who seem to look upon Mr. Cannell's present Pelargonium display as something new, are evidently not

aware of the large quantities of scarlet bloom (which in market conventionalism it is called) that is offered every morning in Covent Garden Market. Indeed several hitherto successful growers of it have now abandoned it on account of the insufficiently remunerative price at which it is offered. A few mornings ago whilst passing round the market, Mr. Greening, with whom originated the semi-double *Vesuvius*, Wonderful, hal, when the market was closed, over 1000 trusses left. This fact, combined with the price it commands, but which for obvious reasons I must not mention, are sufficiently indicative of the ease with which this useful commodity is produced at this dull season of the year. *J. B., Hope Nursery, Lewisian High Road, S.E.* [The correspondents whom "J. B." alludes to are fully aware of what is done now, and has been done by the market growers, but they are also aware that comparatively few gentlemen's gardeners make so much use of Pelargoniums in midwinter, as by the ease with which they are grown they would find it well worth their while to do; and it was for this class that the paragraphs in our two last issues were intended. There is nothing new in producing "scarlets" in winter, but Mr. Cannell has plenty of every shade of colour in full bloom, and that at any rate is something not very old. EDS.]

Omphalodes Luciliæ.—You have done a kindness in calling attention to this beautiful plant, but you would have conferred a greater kindness if you had told your readers how to grow it. Perhaps Mr. Parker or some one will give this information. I find it very unmanageable. It may be hardy in the South, but not so here. The only good plant I have seen was kept under a hand-light. *E. K. W. Gohoven.* [Mr. Parker informs us that he has known the oldest plant in the possession of Mr. Atkins, of Painswick, for at least ten years, and it is quite hardy with him in a bleak situation on the Cotswold Hills. In Mr. Parker's own nursery it has stood out fully exposed, and he has never known it to be injured by cold. Peat, loam, and sand, with good drainage, seems to suit it best. EDS.]

Escallonia macrantha.—In July I sent you some flowers of this beautiful evergreen climber, and which you noticed in your following number, August 4. It has been flowering off and on ever since, and I now send some in flower, and think it should find a place in every garden. *J. M.*

To Grow the Mistleto.—For the last twelve to fifteen years I have tried to grow this plant from seed, and for this purpose have sown from 100 to 200 seeds a year, and yet till last year (1877) I have only been very partially successful, and now think that I can with confidence recommend a course which will secure the growth of nearly every seed properly placed upon suitable positions on, at least, Apple trees. In my long practice I soon found that seeds sown too early in the season always died, and I, therefore, made the time late in April or early in May. Yet on an average not above one seed in two years ever produced a plant, that is, I only got from my thousands of seeds sown during the twelve to fifteen years seven plants. Last year my gardener fitted a thick slice of Apple-wood, out of which grew Mistleto with its berries on to the stems of an Apple tree, and clayed it well over the part inserted. I don't think this process is necessary, for any way which will keep the Mistleto seeds fresh is all that is required. My gardener's object was the hope that the portion of the plant in the wood might insert itself into the Apple tree. However, in the second week in last June the five berries which birds, &c., had allowed to remain on the Mistleto were not only fresh, but some of the seeds within were sprouting, and upon being merely rubbed on the stem of Apple trees and one Lime tree just under the junction of a branch, all have grown, and I hope and have little fear will survive the winter. They have, however, only grown their roots, if I may so call their fang-like processes; but these appear to have perforated through the outer cuticle of the sustaining Apples and Lime trees. I have, however, a strong belief that the damp season has been favourable to these seeds, as in former years I have preserved seeds just sprouting on the bark of a tree by frequent waterings during dry summer weather. Conclusion drawn from the above practice is that Mistleto may be as successfully grown from seed as any other plant if we only follow the same rule—do not sow too early for the cold to injure, and keep sufficiently damp not to allow the seed when in a sprouting and growing state to be killed by heat and dryness. If heavy rains will wash them off their seed-beds this must be provided against, so must depredations by birds; and perhaps in the South the second week in June may be late, and the seeds in the berries may be too much sprouted. The late lamented Mr. Thomas Rivers wrote me some years ago that he had from time to time tried to grow Mistleto upon young trees, as they were asked for by