reason why seedling plants should not produce flowers of different colour from the opposite sides of the stem, as well as is commonly the case as regards the foliage. Not only does it frequently occur that in seedlings bred for tricoloured foliage, one side of the stem sends forth green and the other variegated foliaged branches, but I once saw a seedling plant which produced golden tricoloured foliage on the one side and silver tricoloured foliage on the other. It would be well to watch and note whether this tendency of the Pelargonium to sport as regards the colour of its flowers at the present time is occurring generally. It seems also to be sporting in England and on the Continent into doubleness also. At the time Mr. Grieve raised his first tricoloured foliage varieties the Pelargonium showed symptoms of sporting (quite independent of those bred from the variegated parents) into variegation both in England and on the Continent at the same time. These facts, as regards the changes occurring in plants, or trees, are worthy of record, because it is just possible they may throw some light upon the formation, not merely of new varieties, but of what are termed species, both in the vegetable and animal kingdoms, for I think it probable that each of these sports, if they were not impregnated by single varieties, and perpetuated from seed, but were left to themselves (I am alluding now to the sports into doubles) a given number of years, would refuse to breed with the single varieties from which they sported, and would then be said to be of a distinct species. The watching the course and noting these physiological facts as they occur, unimportant as they appear at first sight, might lead on to the solving of some of the conjectures mooted of late as to the origin of all species. *John Denny.*

The Weather at Inverary Castle, 1875.—Although the rainfall here for the year 1875 was much less than usual, it will be considered large in comparison with more southern districts, even with the excess they have been subject to; but notwithstanding the actual dissimilarity which exists, the distribution of rain in this locality was such that during the summer months vegetation of all kinds continued growing uninterruptedly to the close of its growth. Sunshine and shower prevailed alternately during the summer months, with north wind occasionally intervening. Vegetables in the kitchen garden, which in our ordinary seasons are uncertain crops, this year turned out well; for example, French Beans, Vegetable Marrows, Peas, and Carrots. Fruits on the walls were also abundant and good in quality. Of Pears I may mention a few—Althorp Crassane, Jargonelle, Autumn Bergamot, Beurré Rance, Broom Park, Colmar, Winter Nelis, Hessle, Uvedale's St. Germain (but only fit for cooking purposes), Passe Colmar, Williams' Bon Chrétien, Moorfowl Egg (the latter most valued here), Brown Beurré; but in the open quarters in the kitchen garden Pears do not come to maturity, and even on the walls the branches must be kept wide apart, and the spurs well thinned out too. Plums on the walls, such as Coe's Golden Drop, Kirke's Jefferson, Magnum Bonum, Royale Hâtive, and Orleans; the Victoria does very well in the open quarter, but many of the other hardy Plums are liable to burst after wet weather. Such Apples as the Red Streak, Keswick Codlin, Tower of Glamis, Cellini, and others, succeed well here in good seasons. The intervals of warm, dry weather between the showers was all that could be desired for the flower garden, and imparted a beauty to it the like of which I have not seen since I came here.

Rainfall at Inverary Castle in 1875.

	Inches.		Inches.
January	6	July	1 50
February	2	August	6
March	2 50	September	7
April	2	October	5
May	4	November	4
June	5	December	11

John Cait, Inverary Gardens.

BUNCHES v. TENDRILS.

THE remarks which follow are designed to show the possibility of the convertibility of Vine tendrils into fruit-bearing branches by mechanical means, and the effect of weight in preventing the fruiting branches of the Grape Vine from degenerating into mere tendrils.

These are points that seem to have escaped the attention of Mr. Darwin in his charming and instructive work on climbing plants. I shall, with your permission, preface my remarks with extracts from this work on the natural order Vitaceæ. These will prove most instructive in themselves, and throw much light upon the additional facts which I intend to adduce in relation to the possible modification of structure and formation by mere weight or pressure. On p. 137 of Mr. Darwin's work we find the Vine tendril of the usual type, a figure of which is appended (1).

The author describes the tendril with his usual lucidity thus:—"It is thick and of great length; one from a Vine growing out-of-doors, and that vigorously, was 16 inches long. It consists of a peduncle (A) bearing two branches which diverge equally from it. One of the branches (B) has a scale at its base; it is always, as far as I have seen, longer than the other, and often bifurcates." This is but one example of thousands of the care and penetrating observation of the author. I venture to affirm that there are hundreds of Grape growers who never noticed any scale, and thousands who failed to notice that it was a signal of difference between the two branches of a tendril. I hope the hint may be taken by our rising gardeners that nothing is too small to be noted; more, that it is in the regions of the smallest structural or other differences that great principles are seen in course of evolution and important truths discovered. "The branches when rubbed become curved, and subsequently straighten themselves. After a tendril has clasped any object it contracts spirally, but this does not occur where no object has been seized. The tendrils move spontaneously from side to side; and on a very hot day, one made two elliptical revolutions at an average rate of 2 hours 15 min. During these movements a coloured line painted along the convex surface appeared after a time on one side, then on the concave side, and, lastly, again on the convex side. The two branches of the same tendril have independent movements. After a tendril has spontaneously revolved for a time it bends from the light towards the dark. Mohl says that in a Vine planted against a wall the tendrils point toward it, and in a vineyard generally more or less to the north."

It will also be necessary to give the author's illustration of a flower-stalk and tendril from p. 139, showing that the tendrils of the Vine are modified flower peduncles. The woodcut, fig. 2, is a representation of a bunch of Grapes with spur, its accompanying tendril. "It consists of the common peduncle A and of the flower tendril B, which is represented as having caught a twig, and of the sub-peduncle C bearing the flower-buds. The whole moves spontaneously like a true tendril, but in a less degree; the movement, however, is greater when the sub-peduncle C does not bear many flower-buds. The common peduncle A has not the power of clasping a support, nor has the corresponding part of a true tendril. The flower tendril B is always larger than the sub-peduncle C, and has a scale at its base; it sometimes bifurcates, and therefore corresponds in every detail with the larger scale-bearing branch B, fig. 1, of the true tendril. It is, however, inclined backwards from the sub-peduncle C, or stands at right angles with it, and is thus prepared to aid it in carrying the future bunch of Grapes. The lower and naked part of the sub-peduncle C is slightly sensitive to a rub, and I have seen it bent round a stick and even partly round a leaf with which it had come in contact." I have often met with cases of this sort, one of which I reproduce in fig. 3. Vines in certain conditions and localities frequently show this tendency of the flower-branches to run into tendrils, a tendency that is confirmed if the sub-peduncle C is allowed to remain twisted as in fig. 3. Mr. Darwin continues: "That a sub-peduncle has the same nature as the corresponding branch of an ordinary tendril is well shown when it bears only a few flowers, for in this case it becomes less branched, increases in length, and gains both in sensitiveness and in the power of spontaneous movement. I have twice seen sub-peduncles which bore from thirty to forty flower-buds, and which had become considerably elongated and were completely wound round sticks, exactly like true tendrils. The whole length of another sub-peduncle, bearing only eleven flower-buds, quickly became curved when slightly rubbed; but even this scanty number of flowers rendered the stalk less sensitive than the other branch that is the flower-tendril, for the latter after a lighter rub became curved more quickly and in a greater degree. I have seen a sub-peduncle thickly covered with flower-buds with one of its higher lateral branchlets bearing from some cause only two buds, and this one branchlet had become much elongated, and had spontaneously caught hold of an adjoining twig, in fact it formed a little sub-tendril."

The gradations, as the author triumphantly shows (p. 141), from the ordinary state of a flower-stalk, as represented in the woodcut (fig. 2), to that of a true tendril (fig. 1), are complete. The common sub-peduncle sometimes partially assumes all the characteristics of a true tendril, and a true tendril sometimes carries on its extremities a single flower-bud, which I have ventured to represent on the end of the common tendril (fig. 1, A). Hence, there can be no doubt that the tendril of the Grape Vine is a modified flower peduncle. Large branched bunches of Grapes or double clusters are the product of the conversion of tendrils into fruiting branches, and on this hypothesis the huge masses recently shown at Edinburgh as single bunches may be accepted as weighty arguments in favour of the transition, variation, or modification of structure, or the higher development of inferior parts or species. So far as I am aware, my dear and gifted late brother, Robert Fish, was the first to discover the effects of pressure or weight as a modifying or transforming force in this matter. Having the charge of a large vinery at the Messrs. Tattersalls', Hyde Park Corner, London, between thirty and forty years ago, he found that though he could command good shows of Grapes by means of the genial atmosphere provided by a stock of fermenting manure within the house; hardly had the flower peduncles grown to anything like their full length when, probably in sympathy with dormant and diseased roots, they began to twist round any branch or twig they came in contact with, and to run into tendrils, as shown in fig. 3. He soon found that when the twists were removed the tendency to run into tendrils was arrested. This was one step gained. Partly to better the lesson thus learned, and with a view of confirming the dependent position, small weights were attached to the bunches, as shown in fig. 4. The result was as gratifying as it was at first unexpected. The untwisting and the weight together soon checked the formation of tendrils, and forced the sub-peduncle into its proper character of a bunch of Grapes. When I lived with my brother at Putteridge Bury, there was an old vinery with the roots in a bad state, or very deep. The Grapes in this were always in danger of bolting off into mere tendrils, unless weighted into fruit bearing, and we used to weight each with small pebbles as soon as they fairly showed. If any were missed, or if the pebble or other weight slipped its tie, these bunches ran off into tendrils, while I do not remember an instance of one sufficiently weighted doing likewise. Since then, during more than twenty years' practice, I have weighted many suspicious-looking bunches, and always with the result of checking the degeneration of a fruit branch into a mere tendril. In this reversion or degradation of parts there is often a great variety of structure. The flower-stalks, soon after they are formed, often branch off into a number of hooked semi-tendrils, resulting, of course, in a fruitless state; on the other hand, true tendrils that show flowers on the extremities or other parts—for these flowers are by no means confined to the extremities—set and swell their fruit better if also weighted.

It is well also to note that the weighting of the sub-peduncles is not nearly so effectual, unless the twist at C, fig. 3, is carefully undone. There can be no doubt that that single revolution dominates to a large extent the character of the entire branch beyond, and confirms in a powerful manner its tendrilward tendencies; in fact, unless that circle is undone, it is comparatively useless to attempt to lure back the runaway bunch into fruitfulness. I have even seen such sub-peduncles weighted above the twist suddenly snap off and the remaining portions run off into true tendrils. More wonderful still, perhaps, as showing something akin to a sympathy of parts, and like dominating like, the success of weighting is enhanced by removing the tendril B, as shown in fig. 4. I have also noticed that the tendency of the sub-peduncle to form a tendril is increased in proportion to the strength and length of the tendril B, and would, therefore, strongly recommend the removal of all tendrils at the earliest possible moment.

Another point of great practical interest remains. The transition of the sub-peduncles of the flower-stalks of the Vine into tendrils in any considerable number is a sign that something is wrong with the roots. It is thus a curious example of the law of the compensation of force. Vital force, from some cause or other, is lowered, and is unable to carry a heavy load of Grapes. Structural modification of parts comes to its relief, and transforms the heavy and exhausting load of Grapes into a series of climbing tendrils, that help the Vine to mount higher, grow further, and perhaps re-establish its health. Hence the weighting of runaway Grapes brings with it other duties—those, for instance, of renovation and replenishing; otherwise we may gain a crop at the

expense of the health and strength of the Vine; for there can be no doubt that the weighting, in so far as it is successful in the arrestment of the degeneration of the fruiting branches into tendrils, thwarts the intention of Nature, which was to carry through that season little or no fruit.

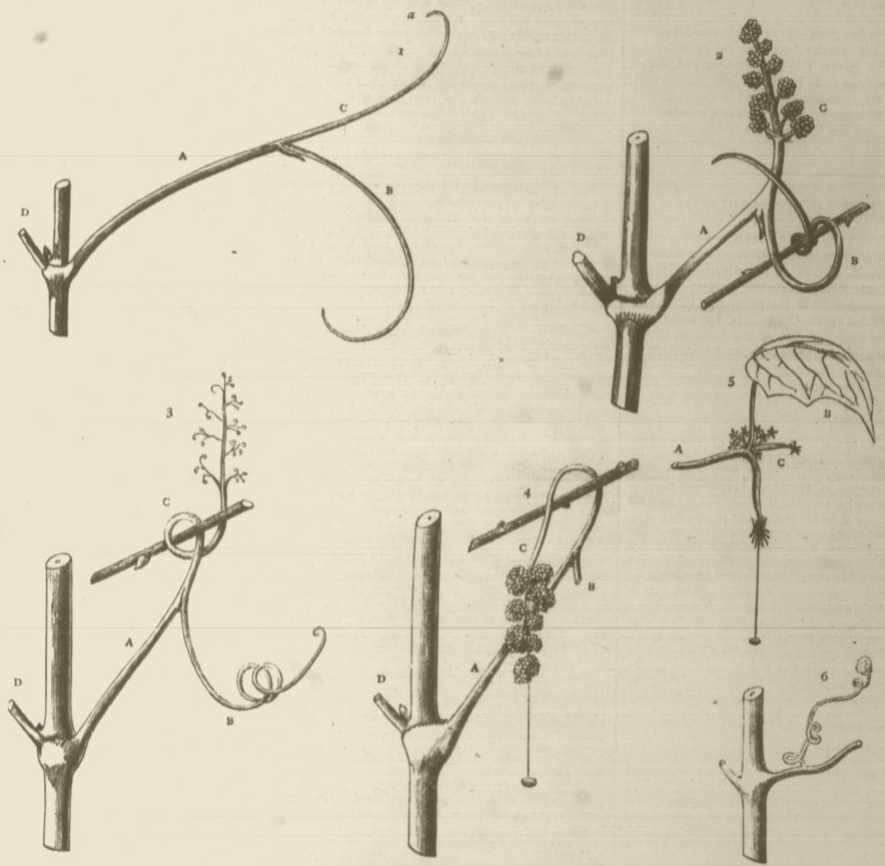
The effect of weight in promoting fruitfulness is further seen in the fact, that as soon as any fruit sets and begins to swell on the sub-peduncle, the formation of tendrils ceases. The natural weight of the berries brings back the wayward branch, as it were, to its proper business—that of fruit bearing. So strong is this check that I have seen tendrils on the fruit bearing branch attempt to form flowers after the berries began to swell. The same fact is strikingly illustrated by the second flower on Muscat Grapes. I never remember to have seen one of these sub-peduncles run into a tendril; on the contrary the tendril is often wanting, or changed into a part of the bunch, thus converting it into a "cluster." Another singular fact has often been observed in regard to these, and that is, that however imperfectly the first crop may have set or swelled off, the second or third successional crops invariably set and swell well. It would be interesting to prove what effect the weight of the first crop had on the freer setting and more rapid swelling of the second.

Or are plants, the Vine especially, subject to the laws of habit, carrying each succeeding crop more easily after every essay at fruit-bearing—like the example of its second attempt the same season? I know this interesting fact may be explained by other causes, but is it not probable that the weight of the first crop is a factor of some weight in the production of the second? It seems pretty certain at least that fertility reproduces itself, unless absolute exhaustion puts an end to its continuity, the mere weight of the produce may be the key that partially unlocks the mystery. That it has something to do with it is almost demonstrated, else how can the facts already advanced be explained?—or the additional one that by weighting the blossoms of Cucumbers and Melons, as shown in fig. 5, we promote the setting, and stimulate the swelling of the fruit? I have adopted this course hundreds of times, and always with uniform success.

The woodcut (fig. 5) shows a small branch with a cluster of small fruits, and one weighted. Now, in almost every case the weighted fruit only will swell, and if some of the others attempt to follow its lead it will nevertheless outstrip them all. Pressure is as potential as a weight suspended, and I have often covered over shy setting Melons with an inch or two of warm soil at the period of fecundation, and the progress they have made has been quite astonishing and not to be accounted for on the increase of heat or humidity, to which the buried fruits were subjected. The stimulus to growth was so great, that if the fruits were carefully exposed to the light afterwards, they received such a stimulus as to ripen a week or even a fortnight in advance of those not covered over; while sorts that were difficult to set by the usual treatment, set freely by weighting or covering.

Neither is there so much mystery about the *rationale* of this matter, in view of the numerous facts adduced by Mr. Darwin of the extreme sensitiveness of tendrils to a touch, or to the pressure of a single thread of almost gossamer weight, compared with those of which I am writing. If tendrils are modified flower peduncles, it follows that flower peduncles—and if these, why not flowers and young fruit also?—are subject to the self-same laws. And if a touch is sufficient to bend or cause spiral revolutions, may not a steady weight be equally or more potential in causing a powerful stimulus to growth, a rapid development of size, or a modification of structure? Just as the muscles of the right arm of a blacksmith are enlarged by exercise, so may fruit be made to swel faster by being weighted.

I also believe in the more than magic power of a touch. It was assuredly not in vain that the ministry of bees and other insects is thus employed in fecundation and hybridisation. Doubtless by a series of the most marvellous adaptations of means to ends, as Mr. Darwin has so ably shown in his most profound work on the fertilisation of Orchids, they carry the pollen to where it is wanted. But they do much more than that probably. Their mechanical weight and contact with the most vital organs of plants probably quicken them into a higher sensitiveness, and so



VINE TENDRILS (SEE TEXT).

concentrate the energies of life in the parts touched as to hasten and perfect the great processes of Nature.

One more fact about Vine tendrils is worthy of notice. At p. 138 Mr. Darwin remarks that Vine tendrils bend from the light towards the dark. He also quotes Mohl to the effect that with a Vine planted against a wall the tendrils will point towards it. I quite believe this, and more, I have found Vine tendrils at the top of a vinery, not only pointing towards the wall, but pressing so firmly against it that their sides and extremities were enlarged into something akin to the adhesive discs that distinguish the tendrils of the Ampelopsis hederaceas, and they have in a few instances actually seemed to adhere. In structure they might have passed very well for those of the Virginian Creeper, fig. 6. Can it be that Vine tendrils were once of this character, and that their pointing towards a wall, and from the light, is a hereditary legacy handed down in their constitution from the remote times when they climbed by adhesive discs, and probably manufactured their own cement to make them cling the easier to the primitive rocks as the Virginian Creeper and Ficus repens still continue to do? It is at least certain that Vine tendrils are considerably altered in structure, and perhaps in function, by being violently compressed against walls, or when they run into crevices in search of holdfasts and perhaps other things. *D. T. Fish.*

Foreign Correspondence.

AKELE COUNTRY, WEST AFRICA.—I have just received a letter from a correspondent and friend of mine, the Rev. M. Nassau, of the American Gaboon Mission, who occupies the extreme outlying picket of that society's station far in the interior in the Akele country (200 miles up the Ogove, and 150 miles from the sea), to the north and east of the Gaboon River. As this is new ground to the naturalist, I have thought that perhaps your readers might like to see a few extracts from his letter where he incidentally touches on the products of the country, and accordingly enclose them. *Andrew Murray.*

"I went down to the sea in the last of June walking across country north-west, until I struck the Rembue, an affluent of the Gaboon, about 70 or 80 miles from Baraka, our mission station at Gaboon. I returned here in August, and have built a small Bamboo house on ground which I purchased from the natives last June, and just as the natives, and of the same materials—thatch made of leaves of the Bamboo Palm, ingeniously fastened together side by side until each piece of thatch is about 5 feet long and 2 feet wide. These are tied over saplings some 2 or 3 inches in diameter stuck into the ground about 1 foot apart, on the outline of the house; and over them are tied horizontally, 2 to 6 inches apart, split fronds of the same Palm. These pieces of thatch are laid on the roof, just as shingles are with us. My house is, as you may suppose, a small one; but the natives consider it very large, because its walls are 7 feet high, and the ridge pole 10 feet from the ground. The roof extends 3 feet over the side walls, so as to protect the walls from the dashing rains. Bamboo soon decays when exposed to wet. I am sitting in my bed-room, by the gable window. I have a chair, but no table; there is no room for a table, even if I had one. My boxes of clothing, provisions, and goods, such as cloth, knives, crockery, &c., for buying food and for paying *employés*, crowd the sides of the room, and serve as seats and table. I have fowls and goats and fresh fish for meat, and for vegetables Plantains, Yams, and Sweet Potatos. When there happen to be none of these I fall back on my little supply of canned meats and vegetables (beef and mutton, beans and peas). I have flour, but my cook does not know how to make bread, but he makes something like pancakes of flour, sugar, eggs, and water.

There are a great many Ferns and Orchids here; there is one vine here which I suppose to be an Orchid, I think it one of the most attractive Orchids I have seen. Its root is in the earth, very thin, not as thick as a Wheat-stalk; it climbs the tree by which it grows, and throws out roots into the bark; the vine increases in thickness, 4 yards from its root it is three times as thick, very fleshy, leaves obovate and very fleshy. It is now in profuse bloom, flowers creamy white, of a singular shape, somewhat papilionaceous, and the vine has long—a yard or two—air rootlets with a fleshy skin covering a woody core, from which core are made the strings of the native harps of which Du Chaillu speaks.

"You must be becoming disheartened about the prospects of receiving any bugs from me, and I confess I am a little so in the effort to collect. Collection is not difficult, or even if it were so it can readily be done for a friend; but I have been very unfortunate in my movings about, and narrow places for keeping things, in saving either bugs or bottles, so I asked a fellow missionary last month to forward you from Gaboon one bottle only partly filled, and not to wait lest the few specimens in it should by some accident be spilled. It contained what I suppose to be a Mygale spider. It was caught on these premises while I was cleaning here last June. One of the boys in pursuing it struck it and smashed its body. I was exceedingly disappointed at its mutilation; but the head is complete. I was amazed at the amount of blood that flowed from it. The dragon-flies and other few bugs are also from these premises. *R. H. Nassau.*"

Note.—Dr. Nassau's information as to blood flowing from a Mygale is of interest, as proving that the Mygale does feed on small vertebrate animals. We know that the story of its spinning webs strong enough to catch birds in is a fable. It does not spin webs as snares, if it spins at all, and the correction of that error has driven opinion into the opposite belief, that it does not catch vertebrate animals, but lives upon locusts, beetles, and other large insects. Here there can be no doubt, for the blood spoken of by Dr. Nassau could not be that of the spider (whose blood is colourless), and must have been that of a vertebrate animal—more probably a mouse than a bird—but still a red-blooded animal. *A. M.*

Reports of Societies.

Royal Horticultural: *Jan.* 19.—The 3 o'clock meeting was very thinly attended. The President, Lord Aberdare, opened the proceedings, and shortly afterwards resigned the chair to Mr. David Wooster. Dr. Masters announced the awards made by the Fruit and Floral Committees, and commented on the objects exhibited, in the absence, through illness, of the Rev. M. J. Berkeley; and the meeting adjourned until February 16.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE: Dr. J. D. Hooker, C.B., Pres. R.S., in the chair.

Malformed Potato.—Dr. Masters exhibited, on behalf of Mr. Taylor, gr. to Hon. H. T. Wyndham, a Potato bearing buds or new tubers in the interior. These new growths had been developed from the interior entirely at the expense of the old tuber. Similar instances have been figured occasionally in our columns, and they serve to show that under special circumstances buds or eyes may be formed from any portion of the plant. The question is of the more interest as relevant to the enormous crop of Potatos produced by fostering the development of adventitious buds in the case of some of the American Potatos recently shown at the Society.

Hypertrophied Jasmine Shoot.—Mr. A. W. Bennett forwarded a specimen of a Jasmine shoot exhibiting a swelling on the stem, consisting probably of hypertrophied woody tissue, such as is sometimes seen on the Vine generally as a result of constriction or other injury.

Damage by Insects.—Mr. A. Murray reverted to this subject (see *ante*, p. 780, vol. iv.), and a recommendation was sent up to the Council supporting Mr. Murray's proposal for founding a joint committee from various societies for the purpose of collecting statistical details as to the nature and amount of damage to growing crops effected by insects.

Banana Disease.—Dr. Hooker alluded to the disease in the Banana observed in Queensland, and remarked that in the opinion of the secretary of the Acclimatisation Society there was no specific disease in these cases, but that the rotting observed was a result of bad cultivation.

Diseased Vines.—A letter from Mr. Berkeley was read, in which he stated that the two diseases alluded to by him in a recent number of the *Gardeners' Chronicle* were described by M. Esprit Fabre in the *Bulletin de la Société d'Agriculture d'Herault*, 1853, (see p. 113).

Fertilisation of Coryanthes.—A letter to Dr. Hooker from Mr. Prestoe, of Trinidad, was read, in which the writer threw out the suggestion that the large bag-like lip of this plant, in which many insects get drowned, might possibly have a digestive faculty, as in the case of Drosera and other so-called carnivorous plants. The flowers of the Coryanthes are visited by a small bee of a beautiful shining metallic-green colour, of which specimens were laid before the meeting, and which were considered to be allied to a species of leaf-cutter bee found in Brazil. The lip of the Coryanthes is persistent on the matured seed vessel and becomes thickened, hence Mr. Prestoe suggests that the drowned insects may possibly contribute to the nourishment of the ovules.

Sensitiveness of Plants.—Mr. Prestoe, in the letter just cited, alludes to this as a much more common phenomenon than is usually thought. Various species of Maranta raise their leaves during bright sunshine, and lower or spread them as evening comes on.

Peronospora Viola.—Dr. M. C. Cooke announced the discovery of this fungus on Viola leaves in Wales for the first time in this country.

Uredo alliorum.—Dr. Cooke alluded to an instance wherein a grower of Leeks brought an action against some manufacturer to recover damages done to his Leeks by the smoke of his factory. On examination, however, the Leeks were found to be affected with Uredo alliorum, and not to have been directly injured by the smoke.

FLORAL COMMITTEE.—R. B. Postans, Esq., in the chair. The labours of the committee were not very heavily taxed to-day, though the Council-room was by no means destitute of gay flowers, Messrs. James Veitch & Sons contributing a very fine group, which included a charming lot of Orchids and a batch of Cyclamens of very superior merit. Amongst the latter we particularly noticed one or two of very rich colours, and one of the purest and best-formed whites we have ever seen; and Cyclamen persicum grandiflorum "Model," a strong grower, with fine white flowers on long stout footstalks, and which much resembles the variety "giganteum" sent out by Mr. B. S. Williams. Amongst the Orchids the most striking were Masdevallia tovarensis, Angræcum sesquipedale, Odontoglossum Rossii major, Oncidium cheirophorum, Sophronites grandiflora, two or three varieties of Odontoglossum Roezlii, and Pleione humilis. Tillandsia Lindeni, bright blue; and T. Zahnii, lemon-yellow; and several hybrid Amaryllis were also exhibited in the group. A vote of thanks was passed, and the committee recommended the award of a Davis Medal, which it is intended in future to grant to collections of plants of especial interest brought forward at the fortnightly meetings. Mr. Denning, gr. to Lord Londesborough, exhibited a grandly flowered plant of the old and very curious Dendrobium teretifolium, which gained a First-class Certificate. The flowers are very small, white, with narrow sepals and petals, and the leaves long, terete, and cylindrical, not unlike the pods of Vanilla at first sight. The plant is a native of the vicinity of Port Jackson, and was defined and published by Mr. Brown in 1810, but it does not seem to have flowered in this country until 1839, when Messrs. Loddiges had it in bloom, the fact being recorded in the *Botanical Register* of that year. Another plant, sent to Kew by Mr. Moore, of the Sydney Botanic Garden, flowered soon after, and was figured in the *Botanical Magazine*, tab. 4711. Sir William Marriott, Bart., Down House, Blandford, showed a more than usually fine plant of Cattleya bulbosa, with fifteen beautiful flowers, and received a Cultural Commendation. W. Burnley Hume, Esq., The Hill House, Winterton, Yarmouth, sent a fine plant of the new Masdevallia Davisii, with nine large, very bright, canary-yellow flowers. Messrs. Stuart & Mein, Kelso, sent a large, well-flowered plant of the old Brazilian Rhipsalis pachyptera. Mr. Charles Green, the Botanical Nursery, Holmesdale Road, Reigate, received a Botanical Commendation for the singular Mesembryanthemum truncatellum. A vote of thanks was also accorded to Mr. Green for a group of small but very interesting plants, which included the small, greenish-white flowered Masdevallia melanopus, and a prettier, white-spotted variety of the same species; also a variety of Masdevallia polysticta, as pretty as it was small, greenish-white suffused with rose, and a little spotted.

FRUIT COMMITTEE.—H. Webb, Esq., in the chair.—But few subjects came under the notice of the committee to-day. The most important was a sample of "Whitloef," a sort of Chicory which has been used by the Belgians and Dutch as a salad from time immemorial. The leaves were nicely blanched, and the flavour particularly good, so that the introduction of the plant into English gardens may be welcomed as a boon. The wonder is that this has not been done before. Messrs. James Carter & Co. were the exhibitors, and a First-class Certificate was awarded. A special prize was offered by Messrs. William Paul & Son for the best bunch of their new Waltham Cross White Grape, and this was easily won by Mr. Douglas, gr. to F. Whitbourn, Esq., Loxford Hall, Ilford, who had a well-preserved bunch of very fine berries, the flavour of which was exceedingly good. Messrs. Stuart & Mein, Kelso, received a vote of thanks for some fine examples of proliferous Borecole, and eight varieties of Chilian Beet, fine in growth and beautifully coloured. Mr. J. Chambers, Westlake Nursery, Spring Grove, Isleworth, also received a vote of thanks for some very fine examples of the Blenheim Orange Apple. From the Society's gardens, Chiswick, came nine varieties of winter Pears; and Mr. Taylor, gr. to the Marquis of Bath, Longleat, sent some well-ripened fruits of the Orangefield Tomato.

Glasgow and West of Scotland Horticultural: *Jan.* 4 *and* 5.—This was a winter flower show, and was held in the Corporation Galleries, Sauchiehall Street. The new directorate proposes to hold three great shows, of which this was the first; to be