

used This is done by spreading poisoned grain about the runs of the rabbits or by poisoning the water-tanks. But poison has not turned out successful, and there is besides great objection to the employment of such a dangerous agent in any case.

The introduction of some infectious disease to kill the rabbits has also been advocated, and even tried in certain districts, but it has not succeeded. In this instance, even Pasteur attained no definite result.

In these circumstances, Mr. Rodier's plan, as set forth in his pamphlet, which is certainly theoretically correct, ought to be tried by the authorities on a large scale. It would be easy² to fence round a few thousand acres in one of the worst districts and see what effect will be produced by capturing the rabbits alive and killing only the females. Mr. Rodier tells us that his plan has succeeded well at Tambua Station, and there is every reason to suppose that it would succeed elsewhere if it were properly tried.

THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.¹

FEW things have been more gratifying to those "seriously" interested in horticulture than the great improvement that has taken place in the publications of the Royal Horticultural Society during the last few years. The Society has more than recovered from the disasters that befell it at South Kensington. The present year is not yet completed, but already more than one thousand new fellows have been elected. There is every probability that the approaching centenary will be fittingly celebrated by the erection of proper offices, including an exhibition hall and accommodation for the excellent Lindley Library. This latter is the property of certain trustees, but is inseparable from the Society so long as it exists as a corporate body in or near the metropolis.

One potent reason for the phenomenal success which has of late years distinguished the Society is to be found in the zeal, energy and organising faculty of the secretary. In no respect are these qualities more conspicuously illustrated than by the publications of the Society edited by him.

The papers contributed to the *Journal* have almost always been good of their kind, but they were published at irregular, often very long, intervals, so that interest in them flagged or disappeared entirely.

Under the editorship of the present secretary, the quality of the *Journal* has been more than maintained, whilst comparative regularity of publication has been ensured; so that those fellows whose distant residence precludes them from availing themselves to the full of their privileges may yet be assured that in the *Journal*, as now issued, they have a full equivalent for their subscription, and, as far as possible, are kept abreast of the proceedings at headquarters.

The current number shows an improvement on its predecessors in the fact that a larger infusion of original illustrations has been vouchsafed. Among these we may mention the three coloured plates illustrative of several of the more common fungi which attack garden plants. The article on which these plates confer additional value is the production of Dr. M. C. Cooke, and we are glad to see it is marked "to be continued," for a more complete list of this kind than any that has yet appeared is greatly wanted by gardeners. Another paper illustrated by original half-tone blocks is that on "plant communities" by Prof. Carr, of Nottingham; at least we are not so familiar with them as with the numerous cuts which have done duty before in the various horticultural journals.

During the last year or two, a very useful addition has been made to the Society's records in the shape of short abstracts from current horticultural literature relating to the garden and its inhabitants. These are supplied by a goodly number of trained experts, and when experience has taught them a due sense of proportion and a more rigid selection of what is appropriate to a horticultural journal, their value will be even greater than it is now. This portion of the volume will require the greatest care in indexing, as without a comprehensive index reference will be greatly hampered. The contents are so varied that further detailed comment is impracticable. It must suffice to say that all classes of horticulturists, practical, scientific, æsthetic or amateur, will find something to interest them in these pages.

¹ *The Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society* (September, 1902). Edited by the Rev. W. Wilks, M.A., Secretary.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

OXFORD.—The resolution, "That candidates shall not be required to offer both Greek and Latin in the examination in slated subjects in Responsions," submitted to Congregation on Tuesday, was lost by 189 votes to 166. If the resolution had been carried, a proposal would have been brought forward on November 18, "That all candidates shall be expected to pass in two out of the four following languages:—Greek, Latin, French and German, one of the two being either Greek or Latin." By the decision of Congregation on Tuesday, Greek remains a compulsory subject at Responsions for all candidates; but the subject may be brought up again by a proposal to exempt candidates for honours in certain of the final schools from the compulsion of Greek.

Mr. George Herbert Grosvenor, B.A., New College, has been appointed to the biological scholarship at Naples for the year 1902-3.

THE late Colonel Walter Montgomerie Neilson, who was the son of the inventor of the hot-blast as applied to iron-smelting, and who, in a sense, was the founder of the locomotive trade in the Glasgow district, has made a bequest of 500*l.* in memory of his father, Mr. James Beaumont Neilson, to the Glasgow and West of Scotland Technical College, for the establishment of a gold medal and prize to be awarded each year to the best student of the College completing his course of study of three years for the diploma in mechanical engineering. The medal and prize are to continue the name of, and the invention by, Beaumont Neilson. The medal will be of the value of 10*l.*, and the prize will consist of books.

DR. G. R. PARKIN, the organising agent for the trustees of the Rhodes scholarships, is at present in Oxford to consult with the University and college authorities before proceeding to frame, for the approval of the trustees, a scheme for the election of the scholars. Dr. Parkin states that according to their size, each of the colleges seems prepared to take from two to five of the Rhodes scholars every year. This would give to the smaller colleges six in all for the three years' scholarship, and to the larger colleges about fifteen, when the plan is in full operation. The first year the bequest comes into operation there will be elected probably between seventy and seventy-five scholars, the same number for the second year, for the third year about thirty, and in subsequent years the same proportion will be maintained.

In the course of an address delivered at the Liverpool School of Science on Saturday last, the Bishop of Liverpool remarked that the time had passed for ever when Great Britain stood first and the other nations of the world nowhere. There was great need for energy and exertion, and great care must be taken to develop on educational lines as fast as possible. Technical schools were meeting a real national need and helping to preserve the greatness of the Empire. They were bringing British science and industry together, and in future they would find that science would transfigure industry, and industry would make science more practical. But what were first needed were the unification of education and the full sympathy and cooperation of employer and employed, in which respect foreigners were somewhat ahead of us.

M. BORIS WEINBERG, of the University of Odessa, has recently completed an interesting inquiry into the provisions for the practical study of science made in 206 laboratories in connection with colleges in Europe, America and Australia. In March, 1900, M. Weinberg sent a circular letter to the directors of all physical, mechanical, electrotechnical and chemico-physical laboratories mentioned in the "Minerva Jahrbuch," asking for information as to the number of demonstrators teaching in the laboratories in 1900 and in previous years so far back as 1865, the number of students in the same years, the smallest number of students working at the same time in the laboratory, the hours devoted to practical work by each student during a week, and many similar points. His results are now published, and deal with typical university colleges, medical schools, technical colleges, &c., of the countries of Europe, of the United States and of Australia. The most valuable part of the information brought together in the pamphlet is the careful