

biscuit, which ought to become a prime favourite, preserving, as it does, the original cool milky flavour of the real nut. The Lime-fruit juice biscuits we have already noticed; and some jujubes, in which Lime-fruit juice is combined with liquorice, cocoa, and gelatine, are very agreeable. The biscuits into whose composition pork and beef are said to enter cannot be considered successful. Taking the whole of Dr. Campbell Morfit's specimens, they are, on the whole, satisfactory, but we must not expect too much from his process, which seems to succeed perfectly in the case of vegetables whose flavour is somewhat strongly pronounced.—C. W. QUIN.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Fairy Rings.—Can anything be done to stop the growth of Fairy Rings in lawn Grass?—S. C. G. [Fairy Rings are seldom or never seen where Grass is healthy and luxuriant. As a rule, they are confined to positions where the pasturage is poor, and where the soil is poor in nitrogen and potash. High manuring always has a deterrent effect on the growth of Fairy Rings, especially when highly nitrogenous manures are used.—W. G. S.]

Eradicating Bindweed.—How can I get rid of Bindweed? Every thing in my garden is more or less spoiled by it. The roots penetrate the shale below the soil.—A. R. W. [There is no way but to trench deeply and pick out every scrap that can be found. Constant pulling it up and leaving part of the roots in the ground only increases the stock, as the smallest particle soon makes a vigorous plant.—W. W.]

Weeds in Ponds.—How can I best get rid of weeds in a large piece of water?—E. C. S. [Mow the weeds twice a year—early summer and autumn. I do not know of any other method.—J. M.]

Grape Mildew.—Is Foster's White Seedling Vine more subject to mildew than other kinds? I have a house which I planted four years ago, and for the last two years mildew has made its appearance, in both cases beginning with the White Seedling, and gradually extending to the other kinds, although in a much milder degree.—Q. [Yes; it is considered to be more liable to mildew than some of the more robust kinds. The best remedy for mildew is dusting the parts affected with flowers of sulphur the moment it makes its appearance.—W.]

Couch Grass in an Old Asparagus Bed.—Is it possible to get rid of Couch Grass in an old Asparagus bed without spoiling the bed? I have tried forking it out, but the roots of the Grass are deeper than those of the Asparagus.—R. E. P. [No. Why not, as the bed is an old one, dig the whole up? a young plantation is an every way desirable. The only other mode of keeping the Couch under is to well dress the beds with salt in the month of March. This is the best of all manures for Asparagus, and the Couch will, though not destroyed, be thereby kept down till quite the end of summer.—W. W. H.]

Liquid Manure and Vines.—Kindly inform me as to the best way of applying liquid manure to Vines in an outside border. Also at what stage of their growth liquid manure would be most advantageously applied.—G. H. G. [Carefully prick over the surface with a small fork and apply the liquid manure through a coarse rose. It will be better to repeat the watering several times, as all the soil will then be thoroughly wetted; from the time the berries have moved until they begin to colour, manure water is most beneficially applied. After watering, a good mulching of half-rotted stable manure will prevent evaporation and keep the soil moist.—C. W. T.]

Red Spider on Peach Trees.—The Peach trees in one of my houses with an iron roof have been attacked by red spider, and I should feel much obliged if you would advise me what to do. The fruit is not fully grown, not having been forced as all.—E. H. [Use the garden engine freely night and morning; there is nothing so effectual as frequent washings with clear water. See that the borders are kept well watered; drought and an arid atmosphere are usually the predisposing causes of the attacks of red spider.—W. W.]

Blighted Violets.—I send you three plants of Violets in three stages of disease. Thinking it might be mildew, I applied sulphur, but apparently with no good effect. No doubt the root is first attacked. I have had them attacked by mildew before, and always found sulphur a specific.—F. J. N. [The decay arises from the heat and drought affecting the plants, aggravated in all probability by their being in stiff and sour ground. In dry, hot localities Violets and Panoses are apt to go off in this way during summer.—R. D.]

Blight on Apple Trees.—C. F. C.—The Apple leaves received are injured by an aphid, and I have no doubt that the aphid might be destroyed by using the well-known ordinary means of killing the green fly. When injury of this kind becomes extensive its cure is troublesome, and takes up much time. It is during the early stages of the growth of the insect that great care should be taken to stop any advance. "A stitch in time saves nine" is here well exemplified.—W. W.

Names of Plants.—Col. P.—*Pavia macrostachya*, a middle-sized, deciduous tree, belonging to the Natural Order Sapindaceae, and distinguished from the Horse Chestnut by having a smooth (not prickly) capsule. C. R.—1, *Thuja gigantea*; 2, *Thujaopsis borealis*; 3, *Cupressus Lawsoniana*; 4 (next week), *H. J. E.*—The blue flower is a *Gentiana* of some kind, but which it is we cannot say from the very poor specimen sent; the Stonecrop cannot possibly be named from such a flower as the one sent; leaves as well as flowers should be forwarded if possible. A. P.—Flower much withered, but apparently *Xiphioides palmata*. H. C. S.—*Betonica grandiflora*; a species of *Salvia*, of no particular value; and *Papaver alpinum*. H. B.—A dwarf species of *Epidium*, which we might be able to identify with the aid of complete specimens; we presume it was truly wild in the locality in which you found it? R. T. H.—*Williams*, of Holloway. J. D.—*Bignonia Cheronia*, a very fine flower—so we, that it may be an improved variety or nearly allied species. J. P., *Switzerland*.—1, *Cyrtolopia fragilis dentata*. 2, *Cryptogramma crassa*. 3, *Polypodium Phlegoparia*. 4, *Cystopteris Regia*.

Peach Stump the World.—As I have not noticed an answer to Mr. Henderson's question (see p. 48) respecting this Fine Peach, I think it cannot be so generally grown as it deserves to be. In the autumn of 1874 we received from Messrs. Veitch & Sons a healthy young tree of this variety. It was sent as a substitute for another,

and was recommended as an American kind which would be sure to give satisfaction. We have it in an unheated house, where it closely follows Stirling Castle in ripening. It has a good constitution, grows freely, and its fruit, as Mr. Henderson says, is large and handsome. We have now a full crop of what promises to be very fine fruit. It is one of the best of its season, and is excellent both for table and exhibition.—T. S. COOKES.

Culture of *Todea superba*.—I have a very fine plant of this, but for the last three months the tips of the fronds are turning brown. What is the cause and remedy? I keep it carefully shaded from the sun, and water it daily.—B. A. [Want of air is generally the cause of the tips of the fronds of *Todea superba* turning brown. When the plant is kept too confined the water which it is necessary to give it overcharges the air with moisture, which condenses and falls back on the plant, causing the injury. Nothing is worse for plants of any kind than moisture so obtained. Alternations between a moist and a dry state of the air around the plant will also cause the *Todea* fronds to turn brown. "R. A." had better cover the stem of his *Todea* all over with living *Sphagnum Moss*. Water copiously with rain water. Place it where it will get plenty of light and as little heat as possible; a temperature of 45° is enough for the winter.—J. O'B.]

Diseased Cucumbers.—I have sent two or three small Cucumbers which go off yellow at the points and come to nothing. They are grown on the roof of a Cucumber house, to which air can be given at the top, but not at the sides. I may add that I have lost quite one-half of the crop from the failure in question. I have sufficient fire-heat at command, and I can give plenty of bottom-heat. I also send leaves of the younger and older foliage. Abundance of water is given them three times per week.—J. W. [The leaves, which are very thin, have apparently been attacked by red spider. Maintain a moist atmosphere in the house, give more air, shade during bright sunshine, and stop the points of the shoots at one joint beyond the fruit as soon as the latter is set.—S.]

Plants for Wardian Cases.—What are the best dozen plants or so for a case 3 ft. long and 20 in. wide?—E. F. [The name Wardian case is not applicable to the present plant cases. They are more properly miniature portable conservatories. In our Albert plant case we put Ferns, *Aspidistras*, small Palms, and, to give a little colour in season, *Caladiums* and ornamental-foliaged *Begonias*. Small, well-coloured plants of *Draconas* look well. We clothe the surface with *Lycopodium denticulatum*, green or variegated. As to the number of plants, this is quite a matter of opinion. We put as many in as the case will hold. Some people will put as few in as they can, but then the difference is simply a richly or meagrely furnished case.—B. S.]

Fruitless Pines.—I have a number of Pines in 10-in. and 12-in. pots which, unfortunately, have failed to show fruit this year. They are large healthy plants, and no doubt the pots must be well filled with roots. In order to successfully fruit them next year, should I keep them in the pots they are in without disturbing them in any way? or should I take the tops off and treat them as suckers, of course discarding the old roots?—ENQUIRER. [Do not by any means disturb the Pine plants, but remove part of the surface soil and strip off a few bottom leaves; top-dress them with fresh soil and plunge the pots up to the rims into bottom-heat from 80° to 85°; surface temperature of 90° to 95° through the day. If very dry a good watering once a week. I have always found the above method successful in starting old Pine plants.—D. M.]

Questions.

Veitch's Autumn Giant Cauliflower.—Is it usual for Veitch's Autumn Giant Cauliflower to produce purple heads? At present mine are so coming at the rate of three to one, and for the purpose intended they are useless.—T. U.

Scott's Favourite Lettuce.—I should like to know whether Scott's Favourite Cabbage Lettuce is black or white-seeded. Last year the seed sent was black, and I had splendid Lettices through the hot weather, but this season the seed supplied for it was white and the produce worthless, inasmuch as the plants "bolted" before they folded.—T. U.

Light-coloured Evergreen Shrubs.—I want two or three good foliaged and flowering evergreen shrubs of a light tint of foliage. In looking through the evergreens I find them to be nearly all of a dark shade, except, perhaps, some of the *Rhododendrons* and a tall *Hyssopus*; *Kalmia latifolia*, if I mistake not, is moderately light in shade; *Andromeda* and *Schinus* are of medium green or olive shades, but few are really of a light shade. If any of your readers can name a few I shall be obliged.—JOHN HEAVENS.

Winter Flowers.—I have a small greenhouse heated by a fire which I can keep up to from 55° to 65° at night during winter, and I wish to devote it principally to growing flowers for cutting to supply the church vases through the winter. The flowers must be white and different shades of scarlet and crimson, those which last longest in water after being cut being preferred. Would any of your readers kindly tell me the best sorts (not expensive) to grow?—G. S. M.