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W. RICHARDS, 41, Wellington Street,  
Strand, W.C.

Now ready, in cloth, 11a. 6d.  
THE GARDENERS' CHRONICLE,  
Vol. V., Third Series, JAN. to JUNE, 1889.  
W. RICHARDS, 41, Wellington Street, Strand, W.C.

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

SHOWS.

MONDAY. AUG. 5—Southampton (concluded).  
TUESDAY. AUG. 6—Liverpool (concluded).  
Mansfield.  
Oxford Carnation and Picotee  
Union.  
Leicester.  
FRIDAY. AUG. 9—Stamford (two days).

SALES.

THURSDAY. AUG. 8—Imported Orchids from Messrs. H. Low & Co.; also Orchids in Flower, at Stevens' Rooms.

CORRECTED AVERAGE TEMPERATURE FOR THE ENSUING WEEK, DEDUCED FROM THE OBSERVATIONS OF FORTY-THREE YEARS, AT CHISWICK—63°.

THERE is some fear lest we may become slaves to routine, and go on planting Planes, and Planes only, as if there were no other trees equally well suited to bear the dust and foul air of our great cities. The real difficulty consists in the fact, that through the general ignorance of what trees are available, there is no demand for them. Nurserymen do not, therefore, keep them in sufficient numbers for the purpose, and the price consequently is high. The managers of town parks and squares would do good service by planting some of these trees, with the express purpose of showing what trees will thrive in smoky localities. We have frequently given long lists of such trees, but as the subject is once more attracting attention, we may again make mention of some that are suitable. The Maidenhair or Ginkgo tree (*Ginkgo adiantifolia*) is one which is pre-eminent in its power of resisting the evil influences of smoke. Moreover, it is very elegant, easily propagated by layers, easily managed, and has scarcely a defect, except that of scarcity. We need not here refer to its great interest botanically and geologically—that is generally known and appreciated by students, we are alluding now simply to its utilitarian properties. Those who desire to see for themselves how well the tree does in confined localities may see a fine specimen in the Chelsea Botanic Garden, another may be found near the Brewery in the High Street of Brentford—not a very savoury locality. A third exists in the private garden of a gentleman at Bow, and the trunk of which, at 5 feet from the ground, measures roughly 6 feet 6 inches in girth. It is altogether a graceful tree, pleasant to the eye, and grateful for its shade. This particular tree is

interesting, as it is in all probability the fellow to some which once stood in the adjacent Mile End Nursery, and which were among the first planted in this country, as may be read in LOUDON's *Arboretum*.

It may even be the very tree mentioned in the following quotation:—"In the Mile End Nursery are several trees, the highest of which was, in 1834, 57 feet high, with a trunk 3 feet in diameter; and in 1837 it had gained 3 feet in height. In the grounds of an adjoining villa there is a tree between 30 and 40 feet high, which has grown all to one side, in consequence of the pressure of other trees. This tree produced abundance of male blossoms in May, 1835, and is now, June 5, 1837, also in flower." We have on various occasions figured fine trees of this species, the last occasion being on March 2 of this year (p. 265), when we gave an illustration of a fine specimen at Kew.

REIN, in his very interesting account of the *Industries of Japan*, has several references to this tree, from which we extract the following particulars:—

"*Ginkgo biloba*, L. (*Salisburia adiantifolia*, Smith), must be considered a unique specimen among existing Conifers, on account of its leaf, blossom, and Plum-like fruit forms. Kindred specimens were widely scattered over the northern hemisphere in the tertiary period, but are now reduced to the single *Ginkgo* of Eastern Asia. It is now known only in a cultivated state. The Chinese and Japanese cultivate it partly on account of its edible fruits, but principally for the adornment of their temple-courts and cemeteries. It grows rapidly, reaches large dimensions, and a great height. The wood shows many similarities to that of the Maple, is of a bright yellowish colour, fine-grained, capable of polish, tender, and easily broken, and therefore not so highly prized. . . . Among the trees of this kind in temple grounds in and around Tōkio, the largest and most finely developed is the one at the temple Koyenji. Ten years ago, at 2 metres high, its circumference was 7.3 metres, and in 1884 nearly 7.55 metres. Lehmann estimated the height of the stoutest branches at 32 metres, and heard that the age of the tree was supposed to be 1000 years. This must, however, be a great exaggeration in view of the origin and growth of the city Yedo under Tokugawa Tyegasu, and the circumstance that the *Salisburia* only grows from planting. The tree has otherwise the appearance of an old Linden, with a symmetrically developed crown. In the Park at Shiba the largest *Salisburia* had in 1874 a circumference of 6.30 metres."

The *Ailanthus glandulosa*, too, makes a magnificent town tree, a really superb object in gardens and parks, even in unpropitious localities. It is not suited for street or avenue planting for two reasons: one that it throws up suckers, another that its large pinnate leaves disarticulate and fall to pieces as they are shed in autumn, and thus add somewhat to the discomforts attendant upon the fall of the leaf. This, however, is an inconvenience slight in degree and short in duration. The Black Walnut forms an equally noble tree in towns.

A very fine tree for London, and which would make a good street tree if it could be procured in sufficient quantities, is the so called Cucumber tree, *Magnolia acuminata*. When the garden of the Royal Horticultural Society at South Kensington was in its prime there was a row of these trees to be seen in that ill-fated locality, and a fine specimen may be seen with the Ginkgo in the garden at Bow to which we have already alluded.

The Naples Alder, *Alnus cordata*, is another tree scarcely known, except to botanists, but

which is, nevertheless, one of the best for town planting, being hardy, very ornamental, and easily managed.

A visit to the Arboretum at Kew would show scores of handsome Poplars, Oaks, evergreen and deciduous, Ashes, Pears (*Pyrus*), and other trees, eminently suitable for planting in towns; or, if Kew be objected to as being too far removed from the smoke (which, unfortunately, it is not), much information may be derived from a visit to the parks, to the grounds of Fulham Palace, to those at Sion (close to the noisome town of Brentford), and even to many a bye-street in London, where traces of the old gardens which once occupied the site here and there remain in the shape of old Fig trees, Tulip trees, Mulberry trees, Catalpas, Poplars, and other veterans. It is only a year or two back that on the premises of the *Times* itself, in the very heart of the City, a fine shrub of *Ptelea trifoliata* might be seen.

It is equally desirable to know what trees not to plant in confined localities; among them, for various reasons, we may mention Limes, Thorns, Horse Chestnuts, and Gleditschias. These may do in the suburbs or parks, but are not to be recommended for street planting in the denser quarters of a smoky town.

THE GARDENERS' ORPHAN FUND.—The usual monthly meeting of the Committee took place at the Caledonian Hotel on the 25th ult., Mr. GEO. DEAL in the chair. The minutes of the last meeting having been read, Mr. GEORGE DEAL was unanimously re-elected the Chairman of the Executive Committee for the ensuing year. The bank-book showed a balance of £785 13s. 2d. to the credit of the Fund. The Chairman announced the official return of the recent election of children to the Fund. It was resolved that 2,500 copies of the annual report and balance-sheet, with list of subscribers, be printed for circulation. The Hon. Secretary reported that he had received promises towards the £100 to be raised in accordance with the terms of an offer made at the annual dinner by Mr. H. J. VEITCH, that he would give a similar sum provided the £100 was raised in three months. The thanks of the Committee were voted by acclamation to the President, Sir JULIAN GOLDSMID, Bart., M.P., for presiding at the annual dinner; to Mr. HUDSON and others for arranging the floral decorations upon the tables; and also to the donors of plants, flowers, &c. The Hon. Secretary reported that the dinner expenses had been met by the sale of tickets, and by special contributions of money for the purpose. It was resolved that a further sum of £500 be invested in Consols, making the total amount invested just over £3000. It was unanimously resolved that when the conditions of Mr. H. VEITCH's generous offer of £100 have been met by a further sum of £100, that the two children next highest on the recent poll, viz., ROBERT JAMES TODD, aged eight years, and OLIVE CHAPELOW, aged four, be placed upon the fund. Acting upon the addition recently made to Rule 12, the committee unanimously resolved, "That forty special life votes (b), in accordance with the amendment to Rule 12, be placed at the disposal of the sub-committee of stand-holders appointed to assist in carrying out the Covent Garden Fête in May, 1889; and that Mr. ASSNER be requested to obtain the names of the persons selected to exercise the privileges conferred by the amended rule." The proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

PRIMULA OBCONICA.—A correspondent writes:—"It may be, perhaps, interesting to hear from an authentic source confirmatory evidence of the fact of the injurious consequences, to some people, of handling this plant. Throughout the whole of the past winter I have been more or less seriously ill from an intermittent attack of severe inflammation of the face and eyes and hands, and two other members of my

family were similarly affected, though in lesser degree. It so happens that we have grown large quantities of this pretty and useful plant, which I took rather under my own special care, and it was also used largely in a cut state. The case was so unusual that it completely puzzled our doctor, who, however, maintained that there was some local cause. However, in the spring I saw, in *Garden and Forest*, mention made of certain persons who could not touch *Primula obconica* with impunity, and I felt convinced that we had at last traced the cause of our own troubles. We immediately left off using the flowers and handling the plants, and very soon the inflammation entirely disappeared, and there has been no sign of it since. It only affects certain constitutions, apparently, as the gardeners cannot be persuaded to discard it entirely, and they have suffered no inconvenience in repotting or attending to it. I fancy it is the only *Primula* which possesses any hurtful quality, and it would be extremely interesting to find out whether the irritant quality is due to the mechanical agency of the minute hairs working into the skin, or whether there is an actual poison present in the plant itself. In any case, the irritation and fever produced is exceedingly troublesome, causing very considerable swelling and suffering, and it is, I feel sure, a matter worthy of investigation."

**GARDENERS' ORPHAN FUND.**—We have received from Mr. AYLING, The Gardens, Forty Hill, Enfield, the sum of 10s. 6d. towards the special fund required for putting an additional candidate upon the lists of recipients from the fund in accordance with Mr. VEITCH's conditions elsewhere mentioned.

**GARDENERS' BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.**—We are glad to hear that the appeal made on the occasion of the Jubilee of this Institution has been so successful that the committee has decided to place on the pension list, as from June 24 last, the whole of the unsuccessful candidates (17) at the last election. The first payment will be made in October next. The following list will show that locality is not studied in this matter, and that only three of the candidates for election are residents in or near London, thus showing that residents in the Metropolitan district have no undue advantage:—

James Brown, Croydon	...	...	...	aged	71
Edward Spivey, Sawbridgeworth	...	...	...	...	76
George Lambert, Chichester	...	...	...	...	71
Stephen Evans, Chichester	...	...	...	...	74
Thomas Morley, Cambridge	...	...	...	...	80
Joseph Norval, Chester	...	...	...	...	63
Elizabeth Snow, Taunton	...	...	...	...	74
James Manderson, Stoke Newington	...	...	...	...	66
Elizabeth Pollard, Croydon	...	...	...	...	76
Henry Berry, Dromore, Ireland	...	...	...	...	73
James Edmonds, Fulham	...	...	...	...	83
William Fowle, Southampton	...	...	...	...	69
George Fricker, Bourne Valley	...	...	...	...	73
John Grimshaw, Huyton, Liverpool	...	...	...	...	80
John Hooper, Bristol	...	...	...	...	80
Clement Preston, Brixton	...	...	...	...	77
James Priest, Long Eaton, Notts	...	...	...	...	65

Among the donors of £10 10s. we note the Vintners' Company and the Merchant Taylors' Company.

**ORCHIDS, THEIR CULTURE AND MANAGEMENT.**—Mr. W. WATSON, assistant curatur of the Royal Gardens, Kew, assisted by Mr. BEAN, the foreman of the Orchid department, has commenced the publication, in monthly parts, of what promises to be a convenient treatise on orchids, for the use of amateurs. The names of the authors and the facilities at their disposal are a sufficient guarantee that the work will be well done. The first chapter is devoted to general remarks upon culture. It is curious to see, after the costly failures that have been experienced, and the volumes that have been written on the subject, how simple the matter is in principle, on paper, as it is said! how little fundamental difference there is in the general principles underlying successful Orchid culture, from those which obtain in the case of other plants. The real difficulty is one of detail, and that of course can only be overcome by experience. The perfection,

rapidity, and ease, however, with which this experience may be obtained depend essentially on the knowledge of general principles, to say nothing of the increased ability to cope with new conditions and unforeseen circumstances. The genera are treated alphabetically, and short descriptions given of the most important species. The work is published in monthly parts at one shilling each by L. UPcott GILL, 170, Strand.

**RECTIFICATION OF NAMES.**—The Statistical Department of the Board of Trade have at last got rid of the misleading and incorrect name of "Terra Japonica," which used to be applied to Gambir, the inspissated extract of *Uncaria Gambir*, chiefly made in the Straits Settlements, and largely used in Europe and America for tanning and dyeing. They have also commenced to leave out the *a* in the fruit of the Coco-nut Palm, in order to distinguish it from the many other products closely resembling the name, such as Coca, the leaf of *Erythroxylon Coca*, Cacao, the seed of *Theobroma Cacao*, Coco or Eddoe, the tuber of *Colocasia esculenta*, and the Cocoa plum. The wholesale dealers in Coco nuts have, however, adopted the spelling of Koker nut. The Board of Trade in their returns still spell Sumach, Shumac.

**CANADIAN FRUITS.**—The *Canadian Horticulturist* reports unfavourably as regards the fruit crops of the Dominion.

**FOWLS FOR PLEASURE, PRIZES, AND PROFIT.** is the title of a weekly journal devoted exclusively to poultry, published at the price of one penny, and whose precepts are so precious that they are likely to secure public approval.

**"WORK."**—This is the title of a new publication issued by Messrs. CASSELL & Co., itself a guarantee of excellence and usefulness. It is a weekly journal published at one penny, and intended for artizans and workmen of all degree. In some recent numbers we note some very good articles on the construction of tenants' greenhouses (No. 12, p. 13); book-cases, rustic fences, gates, &c., which are likely to be of great service to amateurs.

**THE NEW PUBLIC PARK AND RECREATION GROUNDS, ACTON.**—These new grounds were recently opened by Lady GEORGE HAMILTON, the wife of the First Lord of the Admiralty, who is the Member for the Parliamentary Division in which Acton is situated. The extent of the ground is about twenty-five acres, of which eighteen acres are laid out, and the remainder will be so utilised as soon as the leases fall in. Formerly it was a most uninviting piece of land, about ten acres of it having been used as a brick field, while a large portion of the remainder had laid by in a rough condition for a considerable time. The park is situated on the left of the Uxbridge Road towards London, and a little way eastward of the North London Railway bridge, which spans the main road at this point. The cost of the ground and the laying out of the same amounts to something like £48,000, but the Goldsmiths' Company, to whom part of the ground belonged, generously returned £5,000 of the purchase-money. Designs for laying out the grounds were invited, and that of Messrs. J. Cheal & Sons, Lowfield Nurseries, Crawley, was accepted. On entering the ground from the Uxbridge Road there is seen on the left hand a spacious playground for children, gravelled over, the lower portion being for boys, and the upper for girls. The upper part is laid out for tennis-court, and the eastern side will be available for cricket; a bowling green is also provided. Gravelled paths and broad carriage ways spread like a network throughout the whole extent, and two ornamental bridges have been built in the grounds. A covered band-stand and arcades have been erected. Ornamental flower-beds with large beds and borders of shrubbery are introduced, and Poplar, Oak, and other trees that have stood on the ground for years, are utilised, and afford

welcome shade. The work of laying out by Messrs. Cheal & Sons has given much satisfaction. The grass, shrubs, &c., have grown remarkably well. There is an immense growing neighbourhood all round the new grounds, and the eastern portion of the ancient and rapidly increasing parish of Acton, which extends a considerable way towards Shepherd's Bush, will derive great benefit from the recreation grounds. Acton, with its large working-class population, is not nearly so well favoured in the matter of open spaces as its sister parish Ealing, which adjoins it on the west.

**THE DWARFED TREES OF JAPAN.**—The French are much interested in the dwarf trees shown by the Japanese horticulturists at the Exhibition. There are exhibited Thuias, Pines, and Cedars, said to be 100 to 150 years old, not higher than 18 inches. Hence one can have small forests in flower-pots, and a collection of Fir trees in a balcony. They are puzzled to conceive how these vegetable deformities are produced by patience and labour. Each branch as it shoots is said to be embedded in earth and retained in position by props or supports and bands. The curvature is made at right angles, and the upper part of the branch continues to grow while the other withers and dies. Every time a young sucker or shoot appears it is treated in the same manner. It is by thus stopping the development and forcing the tree to take various contorted forms, that they are able to produce these curious abortions. This work has to be continued by several generations of horticulturists, if we are to believe that these small trees arrive at the great age alleged. Whether there is anything to admire in such dwarf trees is a question of taste: but a sight of them explains the fantastic and unnatural forms of the plants which the Japanese produce on their lacquered trays, on their bronzes, and their embroideries.

**CULTIVO DE LOS ROSALES EN MACETAS.**—We notice this work, published in Madrid, to show that even in Spain pot roses are valued, and the work of WILLIAM PAUL on their culture estimated at its proper value. The translator adds a preface containing among other things a singularly imperfect list of English Rose growers, while more than half of the volume is taken up with an "Antología de la Rosa," or series of poetic effusions in Spanish.

**"JOURNAL OF THE LINNEAN SOCIETY."**—The last issued Part contains Mr. ROLFE's paper on Apostasiæ, read as long ago as June, 1888, a tribe of Orchids with nearly regular flowers, and representing, it may be presumed, an early and simple condition from which the more complicated forms have been derived. Rev. R. BARON contributes to this number an interesting account of the Flora of Madagascar.

**A CHILDREN'S FLOWER SHOW.**—Within a stone's throw of the magnificent college for ladies which the late Mr. HOLLOWAY erected on Egham Hill, there was held on the 25th ult. an exceedingly interesting exhibition of children's plants. The exhibition took place under the auspices of the Egham Juvenile Floral and Industrial Society, its floral section specially encouraging the culture in pots or small boxes of plants from cuttings and from seeds. There are two sections: seniors up to seventeen years of age, and juniors up to twelve years of age. The payment for membership is 4d. and 3d. respectively. For this sum each member receives in the spring six well rooted cuttings of ordinary pot plants, such as Fuchsias, Musks, Lobelias, zonal and variegated Pelargoniums, Petunias, Isolepis gracilis, &c., and six small packets of seeds of common annuals, the chief of which are Collinsia bicolor, Dwarf Nasturtiums, Candytufts, Mignonette, Nemophila, &c. The classes for the prize competitions include six plants (or less) from cuttings, six annuals (or less) from seeds, and one selected premier plant and pot of seeds in each section. Added to these there are classes for groups made up of both plants and seeds for growers who have not succeeded in saving all of