

duce. It is the most profitable animal man has ever taken into his keeping, and one of the most easily managed. Everybody who can command the convenience should go in for pigs, and this is the best time to begin pig-keeping. In common with other things that have been improved by careful breeding, the best breeds are the most profitable, while of course they are the most interesting. Starving the sow is a common practice, and merits attention. A half-starved cow yields milk small in quantity and poor in quality. On the other hand, a liberal supply of pea or bean meal, or oil-cake, and other food rich in nitrogenous and phosphatic elements, will be repaid by an abundance of milk of the finest quality.

Exhibitions and Meetings.

WAKEFIELD AMATEUR TULIP SOCIETY, MAY 29.

ON Whit-Monday last I had the pleasure of witnessing for the first time a tulip show in Yorkshire. It was my good fortune to spend Whit Sunday and Monday with Mr. Samuel Barlow, J.P., at Stakehill, Manchester, the Rev. F. Tymons, the well-known and successful auricular cultivator, of Baskin Hill, Drumcondra, co. Dublin, and Mr. Thomas Moore, curator of the Botanic Garden at Chelsea, being also of the Stakehill party. Leaving Rochdale by the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, after a pleasant drive from Stakehill, we reached Wakefield at noon, and were met at the station by Mr. R. J. Sharpley and two other members of the committee, who, expecting to meet Mr. Barlow only, were greatly pleased that other floricultural friends were with him, and especially were they gratified with the company of Mr. Thomas Moore, whose portrait many of them had just seen in the *Gardeners' Chronicle* and the *Gardeners' Magazine*. From the railway station to the Brunswick Hotel, Borough Market, was a short walk through one of the principal thoroughfares of Wakefield, and thither we went to witness the forty-seventh annual exhibition of the Wakefield Amateur Tulip Society, which was established in 1836. The flowers, of which there was a considerable number considering the district, were staged on a long table filling the centre of the commodious club-room of the Brunswick Hotel, and on our arrival we found that the work of judging had commenced, the Rev. F. D. Horner, Kirkby Malzeard, Ripon, and Mr. B. Simonite, of Sheffield, who are as great authorities on tulips as they are on auriculars, being engaged on that important work. It was indeed a very happy meeting of a few florists drawn from widely different parts of the country, and all well-known to each other.

The following were the awards of the judges:—

Pan of six rectified tulips: 1st Thomas Gill, Crigglestone, with feath. byb. Majestic, flamed byb. Lord Denman, feath. biz. Wallace, flamed biz. Sir J. Paxton, feath. rose Industry, and flamed rose Lady Catherine Gordon; 2nd George Gill, Eastmoor, with feath. biz. Sir J. Paxton, flamed biz. Lady Lilford, feath. byb. Lady Denman, flamed byb. Maid of Orleans, feath. rose Minerva, and flamed rose Aglaia; 3rd R. J. Sharpley, Silver Street, with feath. biz. Lord Lilford, flamed biz. Sir J. Paxton, feath. byb. Adonis, Lord Raglan, Mrs. Lea, and Fanny; 4th C. Gill, Crigglestone, with feath. biz. Napoleon, flamed biz. Sir J. Paxton, feath. rose Bessy, flamed byb. Lord Denman, feath. byb. Lady Denman, and flamed rose Aglaia; 5th Thomas Spurr, Vicarage Street, with both feath. and flamed biz. John Brook (2), Vicar of Radford, Aglaia, Mrs. Gill, and Maid of Orleans; 6th J. Hardwick, Eastmoor, with Lord Lilford, Sir J. Paxton, seedling, Lord Deuman, Industry, and Aglaia; 7th John Netherwood, Warrengate, with Vicar of Radford, Mrs. Barlow, Lord Lilford, Sir J. Paxton, and Sylvesta (2); 8th G. Lumb, Kirkgate, with Masterpiece, Duke of Hamilton, George Hardwick, Vicar of Radford (2), and Aglaia; 9th J. Steele, Eastmoor, with Lord Lilford, Vicar of Radford, Grace Darling, John Brook, Triumph Royal, and Lord Denman; 10th E. Lister, Warrengate, with Willison's Queen, Heroine, Lord Lilford, seedling, Sarah Headly, and Sir Joseph Paxton. Pan of six breeders: 1st R. J. Sharpley, with Rose Queen of England, biz. Lord F. Cavendish, byb. George Hardwick, biz. Sir J. Paxton, rose Mabel, and byb. George Hardwick's seedling; 2nd T. Gill, with rose Queen of England, byb. Duchess of Sunderland, biz. John Brook, biz. Fancy, byb. Maid of Orleans, and rose Catherine; 3rd J. Nettleton, Warrengate, seedling (2), Miss Longbottom, Sir J. Paxton, John Bright, and Mrs. Jeffrey; 4th George Gill, with Sir J. Paxton, Louisa Brook, George Hardwick, John Brook, Catherine, and Mrs. Longbottom; 5th E. Lister, Warrengate, with Mary Ellen Fawcett, Paxton, Ethel, Mabel, Ariosto, and Mrs. Longbottom; 6th J. Hardwick, Eastmoor, with Garibaldi, Dragonnette, Mrs. Jeffrey, Dr. Hardy, Dreadnought, and Mabel; 7th T. Spurr, Vicarage Street, with Queen of England, Mary Ellen Fawcett, John Brook, Ariosto, Mabel, and Duchess of Sunderland; 8th George Lumb with seedling (2), Mabel, unknown, and Maid of Orleans. Pair of three breeder tulips: 1st Thomas Spurr, with rose Mrs. Longbottom, byb. Ethel, and biz. John Brook; 2nd R. J. Sharpley, with byb. George Hardwick, biz. Dr. Hardy, and rose Lady Grosvenor; 3rd T. Gill, with rose Catherine, byb. Maid of Orleans, and biz. John Brook; 4th E. Lister, with Lord F. Cavendish, Queen of England, and Duchess of Sutherland; 5th J. Netherwood, with Lady Mary, and John Bright; 6th George Gill, with Criterion, George Hardwick, and Industry; 7th George Lumb, with Ellen Fawcett, Mabel, and seedling; 8th J. Steele, with seedling (2), and Catherine; 9th J. Hardwick, with Beauty of Brighouse, John Brook, and Mabel; 10th Charles Gill, with Mabel, Maid of Orleans, and John Brook. Flamed bizarre: 1st and 2nd R. J. Sharpley with Sir Joseph Paxton and Mrs. Thornes; 3rd and 4th C. Gill with Sir Joseph Paxton; 5th Geo. Lumb do.; 6th and 7th G. Gill do.; 8th T. Gill with John Brook. Flamed byblømen: 1st and 2nd T. Gill with Lord Denman; 3rd R. J. Sharpley with Mrs. Jackson; 4th T. Spurr with Lord Denman; 5th R. J. Sharpley with Adonis; 6th Charles Gill with Lord Denman; 7th Geo. Gill with Lord Denman and Mrs. Gill. Flamed rose: 1st J. Hardwick with Mrs. Lea; 2nd and 3rd T. Gill with Aglaia; 4th J. Netherwood do.; 5th Geo. Gill with Vicar of Radford and Aglaia; 7th T. Spurr with Aglaia; 8th R. J. Sharpley do. Feathered bizarre: 1st R. J. Sharpley with Lord Lilford; 2nd T. Gill with Masterpiece; 3rd R. J. Sharpley with George Hayward; 4th C. Gill with Masterpiece; 5th T. Spurr with Charles X.; 6th T. Gill with Sir J. Paxton; 7th G. Gill with Criterion and Lord Lilford. Feathered byblømen: 1st C. Gill with Lady Denman; 2nd T. Gill do.; 3rd C. Gill do.; 4th T. Gill with Mrs. Gill; 5th G. Gill do.; 6th G. Gill with Maid of Orleans; 7th C.

Lister with Lady Denman; 8th T. Spurr do. Feathered roses: 1st R. J. Sharpley with Industry; 2nd A. Friend with Agnes Mellor; 3rd G. Gill with Heroine; 4th G. Lumb with Industry; 5th G. Gill with Heroine; 6th J. Hardwick, unknown; 7th J. Hardwick with Heroine; 8th R. J. Sharpley with Mrs. Lea. Bizarre breeder: 1st and 2nd R. J. Sharpley with Pilot and Emperor Nicholas; 3rd and 4th G. Gill with Charles Darwin and John Brook; 5th T. Gill with Fancy; 6th and 7th J. Hardwick with John Brook; 8th T. Gill with John Brook. Byblømen breeders: 1st G. Gill with Maid of Orleans; 2nd and 3rd R. J. Sharpley with George Hardwick; 4th E. Lister with Ethel; 5th J. Hardwick with Van Hamburg; 6th J. Netherwood with Horatio; 7th J. Steele with Maid of Orleans; 8th J. Netherwood, with seedling. Rose breeders: 1st and 2nd R. J. Sharpley with Miss Hanson and Lady Grosvenor; 3rd E. Lister with Catherine; 4th G. Gill do.; 5th J. Hardwick with Miss Boot; 6th and 7th T. Gill with Lady Catherine Gordon and Catherine; 8th E. Lister with Nannie Gibson. The premier flowers in the three classes—flame, feathered, and breeder—were adjudged to be those of T. Gill (Lord Denman, flamed byb.), R. J. Sharpley, and T. Gill (John Brook being shown in the feathered and also in the breeder form) in each class respectively.

In the ferns the prizes were awarded as follows:—Three ferns: 1st J. Steele with *Lastrea f.-m. cristata*, *Athyrium f.-f. coronatum*, and *Athyrium f.-f. Frizellia*; 2nd W. Mellor, Kirkgate, with *Scolopendrium vulgare crispum*, *Athyrium f.-f. Victoria*, and *A. f.-f. Frizellia*; 3rd, J. Netherwood with *Osmunda regalis cristata*, *Scolopendrium vulgare crispum*, and *Athyrium f.-f. Victoria*; 4th J. Hardwick; 5th G. Lumb. Ferns—single specimens: 1st W. Mellor with *Athyrium f.-f. formosocristata*; 2nd J. Steele with *Scolopendrium vulgare polystichoides*; 3rd J. Jaques, Zetland Street, with *Polypodium dryopteris*; 4th J. Netherwood; 5th J. Hardwick. The ferns were judged by Mr. Thomas Moore, F.L.S.; Mr. T. Garnet, gardener to R. B. Mackie, Esq., M.P., Wakefield, and Mr. J. Brown, gardener to J. B. Charlesworth, Esq., Hatfield Hall.

After visitors, judges, and exhibitors had dined together, a visit was made to the tulip gardens of Mr. George Gill, at East Moor, and Mr. R. J. Sharpley. The former is a working shoemaker, with his garden attached to his dwelling. Here we found two beds, each 24 yards long by 4 feet in width, with a three-feet walk between them, and covered with a light canvas awning stretched over a framework of wood. The beds are, as is usual, raised above the ground level some eight or ten inches, and the bulbs more thickly planted in the row than is usually the case. In these beds are a large number of new seedlings raised by local cultivators, and many of which appear to be of a very promising character. Among Feathered Bizarres, special mention must be made of Brunswick, Wallace, Charles Gill, Fancy, John Brook, Criterion, and Red Rover; Flamed Bizarres, Fancy, William Thornes, Lord F. Cavendish, Criterion, John Brook, and Charles Gill; Feathered Byblømens, Majestic, George Hardwick, Mrs. Gill, Fred. Gill, Mr. E. A. Leatham, and Elizabeth; Flamed Byblømens, Mrs. Gill, George Hardwick, Mary Ellen Fawcett, and Louisa Brook; Feathered Roses, Minerva, Crown Prince, Fanny, and Thomas Parker; Flamed Rose, Mrs. John Mackie. A great number of highly promising Breeder tulips were in the beds. Among the Bizarres were John Brook, Criterion, Lord F. Cavendish, James Goodair, Fancy, Brunswick, Thomas Garnett, George Ramsden, Mr. Burke, Charles Darwin, and Satisfaction. The Byblømen breeders were George Hardwick, Louisa Brook, Mary Ann, Ethel, Edith Mackie, Elizabeth, Mrs. Gill, Mary Ellen Fawcett, Jane Gill, and Parker's Emperor. Of Rose breeders, Thomas Parker, Isabella, Mrs. Longbottom, and Mr. W. H. Leatham.

Very few of the flowers have been sent out, and they are at present therefore almost entirely local. It is Mr. S. Barlow's intention to test some of them against the newer flowers he has in his fine collection at Stakehill, and thus he will be able to obtain a pretty good general estimate of their qualities.

We then adjourned to inspect the tulip gardens of Mr. Robert J. Sharpley, Silver Street, who has raised some very fine seedlings, of which we hope to give descriptive notes presently, and Messrs. J. Netherwood, G. Lumb, Edwin Lister, Thomas Spurr, Charles Gill, and Thomas Gill. We inspected Mr. Sharpley's two beds, and the flowers were in very fine condition; and we could not help being struck with the appearance of a number of seedling breeders of great promise. Here, as in the case of Mr. George Gill's beds at East Moor, growth and flowers alike were very fine indeed. Mr. Sharpley's garden is away from his dwelling, in a well-situated piece of ground immediately contiguous to the new hospital in course of erection, and not far from the heart of the town.

So ended an exceedingly pleasant visit, and we returned to Rochdale with many grateful recollections of an extremely agreeable outing. Who shall say the avocation of the florist is being neglected, or his art losing its hold upon its devotees? And quoting from an interesting article on "Tulipomania" in the current number of the *Wakefield Herald*, we can appropriately remark: "But we have a word to say in regard to the men who raise these flowers. Their great virtue is that of indomitable patience. Some of them have been at their work for forty and even fifty years. Their bulbs are as dear to them as children. They love them with an intensity of love which those outside cannot understand. Turn out of the squalor of Wrengate and inspect their little plots of beauty. Can any one doubt that the influence of this beauty enters into their hearts, and helps to make them better men?"

SEMPER AUGUSTUS.

DURATION OF RAINFALL.—Most readers are familiar with the practice of registering the actual duration of bright sunshine, for each day and week throughout the year, now in use at Greenwich, and other observations. According to the *Journal de Physique*, an apparatus has been devised for registering the duration of rainfall on a similar principle. An endless band of specially-prepared paper, "sensitized for rain," is divided into twenty-four equal parts, to represent the twenty-four hours of the day, and is kept at a certain rate of movement by clockwork before an aperture of suitable size. The aggregate length of sensitized surface marked by rain indicates the proportion of the twenty-four hours during which rain has been actually falling. Reliable data of this kind, taken in conjunction with other readings of a good rain-gauge, would not be without interest horticulturally.