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IV. Notes, by Mr Wm. Gorrie, as to the Effects of the late Frost on the Plants at Borthwick Hall, the seat of Charles Lawson, Esq.

Charles Lawson Esq.

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II. *On the Species of Dioscorea (yams) occurring in South India.* By
Dr CLEGHORN.

The author adverted to the great importance of these tropical esculents, which are of such value in eastern countries, particularly in seasons of famine like the present, when the rice crops have failed and the suffering population resort to the forests in quest of yams and other indigenous roots. The *Araceæ* and *Dioscoreaceæ* yield starchy tubers, which are much more wholesome than the *cucurbitaceous* fruits so extensively used by the natives. The former contain a large amount of nutriment, and when roasted or steeped in cold water are deprived of their acidity; but the latter are a fruitful source of diarrhoea and mischief. A good conspectus of the genus is still a desideratum. The best description of the Asiatic species was given forty years ago by Roxburgh, who cultivated seventeen species in the Botanic Garden, Calcutta, the roots having been transmitted to him from different districts of Bengal. Of these, thirteen species are now recognised in the public gardens. The student will find representations of these in Wight's "Icones," and in Rheede's "Hortus Malabaricus." The growth of some of the yam tribe is very remarkable. A tuber of *Dioscorea alata*, 1 lb. in weight, was planted at Madras in June, and lifted at the end of nine months, when the weight was found to be 27½ lbs. The best known and most esteemed kinds are *D. aculeata*, "Goa potato;" *D. Batatas*, "Chinese yam;" *D. purpurea*, "Pondicherry potato;" and *D. fasciculata*, "Tenasserim yam." Besides these, *D. globosa* and *D. alata*, with *Arum campanulatum*, are much cultivated; whilst *D. bulbifera*, *pentaphylla*, and *oppositifolia* are common species in the jungles.

III. *Effects of the late Winter on the Coniferae and other Trees and Shrubs at Belstane.* By Mr P. S. ROBERTSON.

This communication will be found at Page 97 of the present Volume of Transactions.

IV. *Notes, by Mr WM. GORRIE, as to the Effects of the late Frost on the Plants at Borthwick Hall, the seat of Charles Lawson, Esq.* (See Page 106).

T. C. Archer, Esq., sent for exhibition sections of the stems of *Bignonia* and *Heteropterys anomala*. Mr Gorrie exhibited a cone of *Pinus Mantchurica*, an edible seeded pine from the province of Mantchooria, on the Amoor River, Eastern Siberia.