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A West Of Scotland garden: Achnashie, Rosneath, 1906

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TRANSACTIONS AND PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH.

SESSION LXXII.

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The President delivered his opening address.

The following communication was read :—

A WEST OF SCOTLAND GARDEN: ACHNASHIE, ROSNEATH, 1906.

By the Rev. DAVID LANDBOROUGH, LL.D., Kilmarnock.

Rosneath is one of the most charming parishes in the whole of Scotland. It is bounded on the south by the Firth of Clyde; on the east by Gare Loch; on the west by Loch Long; and on the north by those lofty, rugged and sublime mountain ranges facetiously termed "The Duke of Argyle's Bowling Green."

One never tires of the views around Rosneath Castle, richly adorned with remarkably varied and beautifully arranged wooding, among which an ancient avenue of yew trees, some of them twelve feet in circumference, is conspicuous. But all the trees of the parish are thrown into the shade by the two famous silver firs which grow here near the site of the old mansion of the Campbells of Carrick. They are supposed to be among the first planted in Britain. In September 1903 they were measured by Messrs. Renwick and M'Kay, who found the height of the one 118 feet and of the other 106; while at $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet the girth of the higher was 21 feet $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and of the lower 22 feet $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

The Established Church manse on the right hand of the road as one leaves the pier has special attractions. Here lived the Rev. Robert Story, father of the late Rev. Dr. Story, Principal of the University of Glasgow.

The beauty of the north of the parish is no less striking. Here by traversing the half mile or so betwixt the main road and the sea we reach ground overhanging the water. How singular our position! In front, stretching for miles, are Loch Gail and Loch Long, while behind is Loch Long undivided. There are thus seemingly three grand lochs all in view from the same spot, one behind and two in front, while the loveliness of the two is set off by the grand mountains towering beyond. In the union of the sweet and lovely with the wild, rugged and sublime, I have seldom seen the equal of the spot.

But my aim is to give some account of the botanical glory of Rosneath, the garden and grounds of Achnashie.

A book has been kept giving a botanical record. It is written by the proprietor, Robert S. Campbell, and is arranged

under the following headings: Introduction, Climate and Position, Bulbs, Herbaceous and Rockery Plants, Heaths and Lilies, Flowering Shrubs, Roses, Ornamental Shrubs, Grasses and Climbers, Hardy Shrubs and Trees, Bamboos, Birds.

The Introduction states that the garden was laid out in the beginning of last century by Mr. Angus, who was then proprietor. The Rev. Dr. Campbell of Row, a clergyman very highly respected by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance, came to Achnashie in 1869, and died there in 1872. By him, and afterwards by his widow, who resided there till 1881, trees and shrubs were added. In 1884 three sons who were then the joint proprietors of Achnashie came home on leave from India.

A feu of several acres of land adjoining allowed of the Achnashie grounds being laid out to much greater advantage and further improved by the planting of clumps and belts of conifers and other trees. In 1898 Sir James M. Campbell, then the sole proprietor, came home finally from India, and from that time resided at Achnashie until his death in 1903. He spared neither time nor money in developing the place to the utmost. The result is that Achnashie is now, in many respects, the most remarkable garden of the West of Scotland.

The garden and grounds face the east and are open to the sun in the south. They are most exposed to the N.W. winds, and sometimes suffer a good deal from them. There is an average yearly rainfall of 55 inches. In the great cold of 1894-5 the thermometer sank to 6° when at the Queen's Park, Glasgow, it was 2° below zero; and at Lamlash, Isle of Arran, 22° above it. The soil is rather heavy and somewhat peaty; but it is thoroughly drained.

BULBS.—"These begin with snowdrops and winter aconite, both of them flowering in the end of January; crocuses, seillas and chionodoxas in February and early March; dog's tooth violets, grape hyacinths, and early yellow daffodils in March; yellow daffodils of all kinds in full glory in early April; white narcissus and tulips in the end of April; and bluebells in May. These bulbs, in all their varieties, are planted throughout the grounds, with the result that the garden and orchard and the field from the middle of April

and early May are a wonderful sight. It may be mentioned that the narcissus and the daffodil multiply rapidly; that the snowdrop, winter aconite, chionodoxa and grape hyacinth, common scilla and *Scilla nutans*, do splendidly, but hyacinths and tulips deteriorate when left in the ground—hyacinths falling off rapidly, while tulips flower year after year, but the flowers become poor. Dog's tooth violets are very satisfactory, as are also several kinds of iris—*I. germanica*; *I. sibirica*; *I. Kämpferi*; *I. Xiphium*, and *I. xiphioides*."

FLOWERS IN WINTER.—We are ready to regard winter as flowerless. How far this is from being the case at Achnashie appears from the following extract: "In 1906, with a mean minimum temperature in January of 38°·13, the following were in bloom: Christmas rose, hellebore, wallflower, hepatica, primrose — various colours, polyanthus, lithospermum, St Bridget anemone and *Anemone blanda*, yellow fumitory, creeping forget-me-not, large periwinkle, small periwinkle, double white arabis, sweet coltsfoot, and lungwort."

When there is so gallant a show in winter it may be surmised how brilliant it is in spring and summer.

We, however, pass this as well as that of autumn, and give the notes on the following:—

Acanthus.—"On the lawn this does excellently and has flowered two years—in October 1903 and October 1906. It is covered well with manure in winter."

Gunnera scabra (prickly rhubarb).—"Near the stream this plant is very fine in the end of summer and in autumn until damaged by frost or severe storms. Measured October 1906 —stem, 5 feet 6 inches; leaf across, 5 feet 1 inch."

Funkia (bantam lily).—"F. *Sieboldiana*, F. *lancifolia* var. *albo-marginata*, F. *undulata* var. *variegata*, F. *ovata*, bloom well."

Parnassia palustris (grass of Parnassus).—"This" (which competes with buckbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*) for supremacy as being the most beautiful of all our native flowers) "does well on the wet part of the bank and blooms in September."

HEATHS AND LILIES.—Heaths are represented by five varieties of *Menziesia* and fifteen of *Erica*. Of lilies there

are seventeen varieties, and regarding them we have the following notes:—"Lilies do very well; but they are a good deal affected by the varying weather of different seasons. A dull, damp time coming when they are in bud keeps them much back, and they are often terribly battered by a turn of wind and rain when they are coming into full bloom."

Lilium auratum "in all its varieties, and also *L. candidum*, find our soil too cold in winter. They deteriorate and need to be renewed to give satisfaction. The other kinds do not suffer, and some of them, particularly *L. speciosum* and *L. Szovitzianum*, thrive splendidly."

"We have some years a magnificent display of *L. auratum*. In 1898 a bed with 64 stalks and 486 blooms."

L. Henryi.—"This year (1906) one stem was 8 feet high with 30 blooms. *L. giganteum*.—10th July 1901, one stem was 8 feet 4 inches high with a number of blooms. *L. Szovitzianum* blooms beautifully in July; *L. speciosum*, var. *roseum*, and *L. album*, var. *Krætzleri*, particularly well in September and October; *L. pardalinum* in July."

FLOWERING SHRUBS.—"Flowering shrubs, such as azaleas, rhododendrons, kalmias and the like, do exceptionally well at Achnashie. They seem to like the soil and the climate, and the time when they flower (May and June) is at Rosneath the driest and brightest of the year. The azaleas and the hybrid rhododendrons begin to flower about or soon after the middle of May, and are at their best in the first part of June."

Next comes a list of the best azaleas and rhododendrons, followed by the note: "The position and arrangement of the grounds display these shrubs to the greatest advantage. The lawn and grounds sloping up from the sea to the house, and behind the house and garden the steep bank with its terraces and winding paths give an opportunity of seeing the shrubs from below and above, and give many effects of brilliant colouring which could not be had on level ground."

Himalayan Rhododendrons.—"In 1901 and 1902, as an experiment, we planted several Himalayan rhododendrons. They grew well, but did not begin to bloom till this year (1907). They were *R. arboreum*, *R. Luscombei*,¹ *R.*

¹ This is a hybrid.—ED.

barbatum, *R. cinnamomeum*, *R. Thomsoni*, and *R. cinna-barinum*." (At Cromla, Corrie, Isle of Arran, *R. arboreum* did not begin to bloom till thirty years planted.)

Camellia.—"Two plants of the double pink were planted in 1902. They have bloomed this year (1907)."

Magnolia.—"M. *conspicua* was planted in 1885. It blooms freely, as does also *M. Soulangeana*, planted more recently."

Among a great variety of other shrubs the following may be mentioned:—"Fuchsia grown as bushes, hedges, and on walls and trellises. We prune freely, and cut the hedge down every year. It grows to the height of about 4 feet, and flowers freely." *Daphne Mezereum* (white and pink); *Diervilla florida* (*Weigela rosea*), and *W. praecox*; *Choisya ternata*; *Deutzia*; *Spiraea*; *Forsythia*; *Leycesteria*; *Olearia*; *Buddleia*; *Pittosporum eugenioides*, etc.

ROSES.—Four pages are devoted to roses. I mention only one—the Banksian. This rose is much cultivated in Southern Europe, and travellers are familiar with it and desire to have it at home. For half a century one has grown luxuriantly overhanging the front door, looking east, of Cromla House, Corrie, Isle of Arran. One summer it had buds, but they did not expand. Has it succeeded at Achnashie? Yes. "One was planted here in 1897, against the south wall of the house, the driest and most sunny position. Everything was done for it, but in vain. There was no bloom. Something uncommon had to be done if we would have success. A thought occurred. This year (1906) the roots of one planted in 1897 were pruned. The chastisement was effectual, and it bloomed. It is evident that it is most likely to bloom should it be grown in poor soil."

I only add that 24 species and varieties of tea-rose and hybrid tea-rose are mentioned as having been "found most satisfactory"; and the same commendation is bestowed upon 15 hybrid perpetuals—the names given of both. A list is also given of 14 pillar roses. "These are a great feature in the Achnashie garden, and they flourish particularly well."

Two notes are added. First, "It is much better to have iron than wooden pillars, arches and trellises, as there is great danger of the wood giving way just when the roses have

grown to their greatest beauty. Second. Iron supports and wire, if galvanised or painted, in no way injure the roses grown over them."

ORNAMENTAL SHRUBS, GRASSES AND CLIMBERS.—I might mention a number of these, but there is one so rare and also so specially attractive—the exquisite Japan maple—that I confine myself to it, giving in full what is recorded.

"*Acer japonicum* (the Japanese maple) is one of the greatest ornaments of the Achnashie garden and grounds.

"We have several varieties, all of which do well. They are lovely with their early shoots in spring, and in the beginning of summer they are exceptionally beautiful. All summer they are excellent, and in autumn the brilliancy of their changing leaves is very striking. They were introduced to the garden in 1885. Two of these have grown into particularly fine plants. On 18th October they measured :

"*A. palmatum*, var. *dissectum ornatum*, 4 feet high ; 24 feet in circumference ; stem 10½ inches in girth. It is a beautiful compact weeping bush with branches and leaves hanging thickly and gracefully to the ground. It is difficult to say whether it is more beautiful in June in its full fresh foliage, or in October when its leaves become of a wonderfully brilliant colouring ere they fall.

"*A. atropurpureum*, var. *palmatum*, height 8 feet 6 inches ; circumference 24 feet ; girth of stem 9 inches. This is of quite a different habit from the other, growing tall ; branches open and spreading and away from the ground. It is very beautiful in spring and early summer, but in autumn the leaves wither very early.

"Gratified by the success of these two, between 1899 and 1903 we got a number of additional varieties which have done excellently—those which were fortunate in situation, splendidly."

The following is our list :—

Acer japonicum, var. *versicolor*.

"	"	"	<i>roseo-marginatum</i> .
"	"	"	<i>roseo-marginatum dissectum</i> .
"	"	"	<i>polymorphum purpureum</i> .
"	"	"	<i>aureum</i> .

Acer japonicum, var. *palmatum sanguineum*.

” ” ” ” *atropurpureum*.

” ” ” ” *dissectum*.

” ” ” ” *dissectum ornatum*.

” ” ” ” *septemlobum elegans*
purpureum.

CLIMBERS.—I only mention that nine species and varieties of these elegant plants are recorded.

HARDY SHRUBS.—Among these, seven varieties of the hawthorn are given. Of one of them—*Crataegus Carrièrei*—it is mentioned that “the berries are as large as cherries.”

BAMBOOS.—I confess that I had no idea that bamboos could be grown successfully in this country. About ten years ago, however, happening to be at Rosneath, a kind lady, knowing my love of plants, took me to Achnashie. All was beautiful and attractive. But I was amazed at the sight of the bamboos. I could hardly believe that I was in Scotland. It seemed to me as if I had been transported to the south of Europe, if not nearer to the equator. In his garden-book Mr. Campbell devotes considerable space to them and his experiments with them. I give the preface in full.

“The beginning of growing bamboos at Achnashie entirely out of doors was made in 1880. In 1871 we had received some small plants of *Arundinaria* (*Thamnocalamus*) *Falconeri* in pots. They were kept in the pot for some years, being placed in the verandah in summer but taken into the greenhouse in winter. In 1880 the experiment was made of planting some of them from the pots to the open soil. It was successful. They did well, and increased in size. In the spring of 1885 they were planted out in an excellent situation, sheltered from strong winds, and open to the sun. They did admirably, and grew into two large clumps reaching 20½ feet in height by the end of 1904.

“From these clumps from time to time plants were taken and clumps were formed in different parts of the ground, proving very ornamental.

“No attempt was made to get any other kind of bamboo

till 1896, when my brother, Sir James M. Campbell, who was at home from India for a short time and was living at Achnashie, got a plant of *Arundinaria japonica* (métaké) from the Rev. Dr. Watson, Largo.

"Two years later, when my brother retired from the Indian Service and settled at Achnashie, he procured a considerable number of other bamboos of different kinds. Of these one or two failed, being unsuitable, or not suiting the places in which they were planted; but the rest did well. Encouraged by this, several more were got in 1900 and 1901, and two in 1905—thus raising the number of species or varieties to a quarter of a hundred." I give the notes regarding a few.

Arundinaria (*Thamnocalamus*) *Falconeri*.—Planted 1885. 1906—height, 20 feet 3½ inches; circumference, 20 feet at 5 feet. It stood 26 degrees of frost in 1895 without injury.

Arundinaria nitida.—Planted 1900. October 1906—height, 9 feet 6 inches. By far the daintiest and most attractive of all its genus, and also exceptionally hardy.

Arundinaria japonica (métaké).—Planted 1896. 1906—height, 10 feet 8 inches; circumference, 13 feet.

Arundinaria Hindsii.—Planted 1901, transplanted 1905. 1906—height, 7 feet.

Bambusa fastuosa.—Planted 1900. 1906—height, 8 feet 8 inches. "This very stately and noble plant stands out quite conspicuously among its fellows." See *Bamboo Garden*, p. 105.

Bambusa nana.—Planted 1901. 1906—height, 3 feet 6 inches.

Bambusa palmata.—Planted 1898. 1906—height, 5 feet 6 inches; circumference, 13 feet. Very flourishing. It is conspicuous for the great size of its leaves.

Phyllostachys aurea.—Planted 1898. 1906—height, 8 feet 9 inches.

Phyllostachys Henonis.—Planted 1900. 1906—height, 10 feet; circumference, 12 feet. "The embodiment of every grace to which plant life is heir." See *Bamboo Garden*, p. 149.

Phyllostachys mitis.—Planted 1898, transplanted. 1906—height, 7 feet. "In pride of stature this is the noblest of all the bamboos generally cultivated in our country" (Britain). See *Bamboo Garden*, p. 117.

FLOWERING OF BAMBOOS AT ACHNASHIE.—“It was not till the summer of 1904 that any bamboo flowered at Achnashie. The first to do so were *Phyllostachys nigra* and *Arundinaria Simoni*, both in that year; while *Phyllostachys Henonis* did so in the following, and *Thamnocalamus Falconeri* in 1906. Though plants should bloom frequently, the seed fails to ripen. At Achnashie, however, seed was obtained from *Arundinaria Simoni* in 1905, and in 1906 from *Thamnocalamus Falconeri*. The seed of both has been sown and has germinated; so that we have plants of both from home-grown seed.”

The following notes are given:—First, seed germinates more quickly when it has been allowed to become perfectly hard and dry. Second, the seed requires considerable heat—only in the stove-house does it spring satisfactorily. Third, birds are fond of the seed. Fourth, before flowering the plants become brown and the leaves fall, causing the plants to look miserable.

BIRDS OF ACHNASHIE GARDEN.

“No account of Achnashie and its garden and grounds would be complete without reference to the birds which add so much to the beauty and enjoyment of the place.” A list is therefore given of the birds seen during the years 1900–1906, with notes regarding them. These are under the headings—

1. Residents all the year.—A list of seventeen.
2. Residents seen occasionally.—A list of fourteen.
3. Summer visitors.—A list of nineteen.
4. Autumn visitors.—A list of three (siskin, redwing, fieldfare).
5. Game birds.—A list of four (snipe, woodcock, grouse, pheasant).
6. Birds on the shore and on the loch within half a mile of Achnashie.—A list of thirty-two.

Special notes are given of five birds, from which I take the following extract:—

“*Tringa alpina* (dunlin, sea-lark, commonest sandpiper).¹ Arrives about the middle of April; generally seen at first in pairs. During summer parent birds are seen with their

¹ Mr. Wm. Evans, F.R.S.E., says this description applies to the Sandpiper *Totanus hypoleucus*.—ED.

young. In autumn flocks of full-grown birds. Leave generally in October; but have been seen in November. The nest is only a slight hollow lined with rootlets and dry leaves. Eggs four in number.

"In 1899 a pair raised a family on the grass between the road and the sea, about ten yards above high-water mark and close to the Achnashie landing-place. In 1900 apparently the same pair, who clearly had found their 1899 nesting-place too public, made their nest on the bank above the garden near the summer-house and about 180 yards from the sea-shore. They raised their brood successfully, but had great difficulty in getting the young birds to the shore. It took some days to make out the journey. At first the parent birds were heard in the evening in great excitement among the laurels on the bank near the summer-house. They were apparently getting the young birds safe for the night. Next evening there was similar excitement among the currant bushes in the garden about half-way to the sea. The following day they were still heard, but ultimately they got safe to the shore.

"In 1902, on the 6th of June, when one of the gardeners was working in the garden, about 100 yards from the shore, he disturbed a dunlin, which flew away, leaving an egg. The gardener went to report the matter, and when he returned the egg was not to be found. A pair of dunlins were seen daily about the garden, bank and shore; but till the 12th we failed to discover their nest. On the bank we found one with four eggs near the foot of a tree within a few yards of the place of the nest of 1900. It seemed clear that the parent birds had carried the one egg from the rockery to the old place up the bank, and about eighty yards further from the shore, and that three more eggs had been laid. The young birds were fledged successfully, and the parents conducted them by degrees to the shore. There was the same excitement at first on the bank, and by stages through the garden, until ultimately the beach was safely reached. The family party were seen in the garden, on the lawn-tennis court, and in the field, as well as on the shore. By the end of July the young birds seemed nearly grown. In August and September the whole party were often seen about the shore; while in October flocks of dunlins were often seen in the Castle Bay

apparently getting ready to leave. In 1903, and also in 1904, broods were also hatched.

"It is very interesting to watch the parent birds with their young upon the shore. The moment the parents call 'twee-wee-wee' the little ones crouch motionless and cannot be distinguished from the stones of the beach. It is much more difficult for them to hide when on the grass or in the garden, but it is surprising how quickly the little creatures find cover when the warning of the parents is heard. The parents were terribly excited when the young ones were among the big laurels and rhododendrons on the bank; but they became much more easy in mind when they saw their young on the lawn-tennis ground or the grass in the open part of the garden. At times a parent bird perches on the post of a pillar rose and watches how the little ones are getting on—surely an unusual thing for a shore bird

"After the young birds have got safely to the shore and can fly, the family party sometimes comes back to the garden; but when the young are fully grown the garden is no longer visited, the birds being seen only on the beach or near the shore.

"After the nests had been for two seasons on the rockery near the tennis court, the dunlins had become wonderfully tame, so that though I or the gardener came near when the hen was hatching, it sat quiet and seemingly unconcerned.

"*Motacilla flava* (blue-headed yellow wagtail).¹—We first observed this wagtail in March 1901, and we have seen it often since. Seebohm says of it: 'It is chiefly known as an accidental straggler on migration to our islands'; and Gordon writes: 'Has occasionally bred in Durham; but generally a straggler over here on migration.' There is, however, no doubt that it is a regular visitor at Rosneath, and that it breeds here. In December 1906 I was glad to find it at Christchurch, Hampshire, in Mr. Hart's delightful collection, and I was much interested to learn from him that it breeds regularly at Christchurch. He was interested to hear of it being found at Rosneath, and said that he had often thought it curious that it was not known and acknowledged as a regular British bird.

"During March, April and May 1901 we often saw a pair

¹ Mr. Wm. Evans, F.R.S.E., says this description applies to the Grey Wagtail *Motacilla melanope*.—ED.

about the glen and the waterfall and its neighbourhood. We thought they must have a nest near, but we failed to find it. In the end of May we saw the parent birds with their young flying about the glen near the stream; and a few days afterwards we saw the young birds with their parents on the shore at the mouth of the stream. In August we came across their nests on the bank of the stream under an overhanging ledge of rock.

"Next year a pair were seen in the last week of March, during April and in the beginning of May, in the glen near the waterfall. On the 13th May we found their nest on a ledge of rock near the waterfall and about thirty yards down stream from the nest of the previous year. There were three young birds just fledged. Alas! that night was most unusually cold—7 degrees of frost—and next day the young birds were dead. There was no sign of foul play. The parent birds had disappeared, and we saw them no more that summer, nor the following. In April 1904 and 1905 they returned, and were seen also in 1905 in September, and in 1906 in May and in August. We have found no nest since 1902; but we have not looked for one.

"This wagtail is the smallest of all the family, and is easily recognised by its blue head and yellow breast, and also by its size, $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches, as compared with pied wagtail, *Motacilla lugubris*, $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and grey wagtail, *M. melanope*, 8 inches.

"*Muscicapa grisola* (spotted flycatcher).—The spotted flycatcher is one of the most interesting of our summer visitors, and adds much to the life of the garden and lawn. They appear in the beginning of June. They have nests somewhere about the place, as we invariably have a number of young birds about during summer. We have not looked for their nests; but in 1905 there was one in the ivy on the wall of Achnashie near the drawing-room window which we watched with much interest, specially enjoying seeing the parent birds feeding and training the young birds. The lawn-tennis court is one of their favourite places. The wire fence round the lawn gives a capital vantage position for the parent birds, and it is very amusing to see a little one perched on a croquet hoop with gaping mouth for the parent bird to give it a fly. Soon, however, the young gain strength and boldly dash from their perch to flycatch on their own account.

It was a very pretty sight to watch the whole family, old and young together, whirling, flying and flashing in pursuit of their rapid winged prey, and it is wonderful to see the number of flies, midges, and other insects which they seem to catch.

"We are favoured with them till August ; but almost all are gone ere the end of that month, though we have noted one early in September ; but it may have spent the summer farther north, and it may have been so far on its migration.

"*Turdus iliacus* and *Turdus pilaris* (redwing and fieldfare).—One of the most interesting bird-sights of Rosneath is the autumn visit of large flocks of fieldfares and redwings.

"The famous yew avenue at Rosneath by its berries seems specially to attract these birds, and from it they scatter to the gardens and shrubberies around, making, wherever they visit, a clearance of yew and rowan-trees of their berries. Having during November finished these they disperse, and are not seen during the winter ; but in April they appear in large flocks in the fields near the castle, apparently preparing for their migration in spring.

"The date of arrival varies, no doubt affected by the prevailing winds. With continuous east wind the birds come early ; but when west and south-west winds prevail the arrival of the birds is delayed. We have recorded the following dates of arrival in the yew avenue—

1902,	November	5.
1903,	"	7.
1904,	"	22.
1905,	"	15.
1906,	"	21.

"Whatever the date of arrival the scene is the same. Large flocks of birds are busy at the berries of the yews—very wild, very noisy, and apparently very quarrelsome, but so timid that on the slightest disturbance they fly to the tops of a line of tall lime trees which run parallel with the avenue of yew.

"In a few days they are much less excited, and do not fly away so hurriedly when any one approaches. Soon they begin to appear throughout the neighbourhood—a great number of fieldfares and a fair number of redwings at

Achnashie enjoying our yew and rowan berries ; but these finished they are speedily away.

“ While there are large numbers both of fieldfares and of redwings, the former are generally more numerous than the latter.”

Dr. R. STEWART MACDOUGALL showed Twigs of Plum infested by *Xyleborus dispar*.

THOS. ANDERSON, M.A., sent for exhibition a specimen of *Orchis pyramidalis*, collected by him on the Links west of Archerfield, East Lothian, in August 1907. The plant was growing close to the shore in pure sand, accompanied only by a scanty growth of *Ammophila arundinacea*, and was the only one he observed.

In making the exhibit Mr. W. Edgar Evans, B.Sc., pointed out that this was a new county record, and referred briefly to previous Scottish records. The first of these was from Colonsay, S. Ebudes (Lightf., “ Flor.Scot.,” 1777) ; the second from Leven Links, Fife, 1835 (J. Knapp, Herb. Roy. Bot. Gard. Edin.). He exhibited specimens gathered by Mrs. P. Evans at Leven in 1879, but said the species was now probably extinct here. Later county records were Wigton (“ Cyb. Brit.,” 1849), Berwickshire (“ Trans. Bot. Soc. Edin.,” 1870), Dumfries, Kirkcudbright and Mid Ebudes.

Mr. R. L. HARROW showed the following plants in flower from the Royal Botanic Garden :—

Caralluma adscendens, *Carpolyza spiralis*, *Cuscuta reflexa*, *Escallonia exoniensis*, *E. langleyensis*, *E. macrantha*, *E. punctata*, *E. Philippiana* × *punctata* (raised at Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, 1907), *Oryza sativa*, var. *atropurpurea*, *Phænocoma prolifera*, var. *Barnesii*, *Pitcairnia Roezlii*, *Polygonum equisetifolium*.

Mr. D. M'GLASHEN showed *Ranunculus arvensis* as an alien from the Edinburgh district.

On behalf of Mr. E. M. HOLMES, F.L.S., the President exhibited herbarium specimens of *Origanum majoranoides*, Willd., which had been received from Mr. W. Bevan, Acting

Director of Agriculture, Cyprus, and from Professor W. R. Dunstan, Director of the Imperial Institute, London. The oil of origanum manufactured in Cyprus had been traced to this plant, which possessed some botanical interest. The plant had been lost sight of for a long time, and was clearly described by Willdenow in the "Species Plantarum," vol. iii. p. 137. It is mentioned in Morison's "Pl. Hist.," vol. iii. p. 359, under the name *Majorana hortensis odorata perennis*, and was evidently known as a garden plant over two hundred years ago. It was remarkable that so distinct a plant should have gone out of cultivation, and that its name should be given in books as a synonym of the ordinary garden Marjoram, *Origanum Majorana*, Linn., which was an annual, whereas the Cyprus plant was perennial. The essential oil distilled from the plant had been examined in the Chemical Research Laboratory of the Imperial Institute, and was found to contain 82·5 per cent. of a phenol which had been identified as carvacrol, this being a higher percentage than that yielded by oil distilled from most species of origanum used in the manufacture of the commercial oil.

On behalf of Mr. E. M. HOLMES, F.L.S., the President also exhibited the seeds of *Sapium verum*, Hemsl., which yields the "Virger" rubber of New Granada.