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IV. On the Open-Air Vegetation at Ike Royal Botanic Garden

James M'Nab

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forwarded to me by Mr P. N. Fraser. In this neighbourhood the habitat is so wild, and the amount of the plant so considerable, as to preclude the idea of its having been introduced.

IV. *On the Open-Air Vegetation at the Royal Botanic Garden.* By JAMES M'NAB, Curator.

Since last meeting (June 11) we experienced during the early part of the month much cold, dry easterly wind, with hot sun, which has kept back the foliage of late-leaving trees, such as sugar maple, locust tree, deciduous cypress, tulip tree, catalpa, liquidambar, deciduous magnolias, &c. Owing to the long drought the leaves of several species look as if they would not be properly developed this season; they are now (July 9) far behind. We had heavy showers of rain on June 25 and 29, and slight showers on several days since, but the moisture not having penetrated the soil under the trees, a full development of foliage cannot be expected.

The long dry weather has ripened the leaves of some early-foliaged trees, such as the lime and sycamore, which, in several town squares and gardens, already display an autumnal tint. Excluding the common horse chestnut, elm, lime, and sycamore, few of the ordinary forest trees, as the beech, ash, oak, and birch (except in situations naturally damp), show the usual rich luxuriance of foliage of the beginning of July; and from present appearance, particularly in dry situations, do not seem as if they would attain their accustomed size this year.

The double-flowered English cherry (*Prunus avium*) bloomed a second time about June 20, probably from buds of the first flowering partially injured by the east wind in spring.

Scarlet-flowered horse chestnuts have been very late, and none of the flower-heads equal those of former years.

A large old service tree in the Botanic Garden has assumed a remarkable appearance this year. The stem is 4 feet 6 inches in circumference, and 8 feet high before branching. It is on a raised bank, and a grass lawn rises close to the stem on one side, while the ground on the opposite side is covered with shrubs of yew and lilac. The

leaves on the branches next the exposed grass-bank were fully developed three weeks before the leaves on the root-bound portion, which forms about one-third of the tree. The latter is now covered with rich foliage, but shows no appearance of flowering; while the former is abundantly set with fruit, and has foliage of a dark green colour. This shows that the roots on one side do not stimulate the branches on both sides at the same time.

The blooming of late varieties of rhododendron has been inferior this year, owing to the dryness of the soil; few of the flowers became freely developed, and except where water was freely applied, many decayed without opening.

Since the rain on June 25 and 29, the young growths on conifers have made rapid progress, and promise to equal those of former years.

Since last meeting the six lowest morning temperatures were on June 12, 14, 15, 25, 26, and 30, indicating 34°, 40°, 36°, 38°, 38°, and 41°; while the six highest morning temperatures were on July 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, and 9, indicating 54°, 55°, 55°, 53°, 53°, and 53°.

V. *Notice of a Crab-Apple Tree of unusual size at Kelloe, Berwickshire.* By SIR R. CHRISTISON, Bart.

When visiting, three weeks ago, a friend at Kelloe House, in the parish of Edrom, a few miles eastward from Dunse, I was shown a Crab-apple tree, which appears to me to deserve being added to Mr M'Nab's memoranda of large trees in Scotland. Crab-apple trees are more frequently met with in the hedge-rows in Berwickshire than anywhere else in Scotland where I have been; possibly, because nowhere else in Scotland do hedge-rows abound as fences. The tree in question, according to the information supplied by an old man upon the estate, stood with several others in a hedge-row, but the hedge was cut down to improve the highway. This particular tree was, however, so large, even at that time, very many years ago, that it was left standing in a convenient triangular space, in front of Kelloe gate, where it does not interfere with the roadway. It has now a trunk of 8 feet in girth, is 50 feet in height, branches freely, and was covered with leaves when