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VIII. Report on the Botanic Garden of Natal

Mr M. J. M'Ken Curator

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VIII. *Report on the Botanic Garden of Natal.* By Mr M. J. M'KEN, Curator.

Mr M. J. M'Ken has issued a report on the Natal Botanic Garden, for the half-year ending 30th June last. He states that there have been no less than thirty-two applications for the quinine-yielding plant, *Cinchona succirubra*, and that if the directions respecting the growth of the seeds are strictly adhered to, we may hope soon to possess a good stock of this highly-valuable medicinal plant, especially in the higher and moister parts of the colony. He reports having passed a month's leave of absence in the Upper Umkomanzi and Umlass district, and there he made large collections of plants suitable for exchange with other botanical institutions, and with the same view he had repeatedly despatched natives to various parts of the country to collect plants, bulbs, and seeds. The arrivals from various public and private gardens are so numerous as to compel him to clear and open out fresh land. He then alludes to a most important addition to the Natal Botanic Garden, of which, however, he is at present expecting simply an estimate of the cost, viz., of a conservatory to be covered with glass, coloured green with oxide of copper, which Dr Hooker of the Royal Gardens, Kew, recommends as most effective in cutting off the heat rays of the sun, whilst not interfering with the luminous rays. A conservatory of this sort may be of the highest importance to the colony.

IX. *Miscellaneous Communications.*

1. The President read a letter from the President of the Horticultural Society of Russia, stating that a grand horticultural international exposition and botanical congress is to be held at St Petersburg, in May 1869, and expressing a wish that the Botanical Society of Edinburgh should be represented at the meeting.

2. Mr M'Nab exhibited the first part of an illustrated work on Ferns, by Mr Moore. The illustrations, which are beautifully executed, are done according to Baildon's patent nature-printing process.

3. Mr Jenner exhibited a flowering plant of *Saxifraga Rocheliana* from the Straits of Magellan.