On a Monstrosity in the Flower of Iris Psedacorus

Professor Dickson

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y = Cotyledon which has gone on to development as a leaf essentially similar in character to the ordinary foliage-leaves, and has become elevated above its fellow by formation of an internode.

z = Main axis.

$x axb$ = Axillary bud of smaller cotyledon.

$y axb$ = Axillary bud of larger cotyledon.

$y acb$ = Accessory bud developed between the last and the base of the cotyledon.

On the Aestivation of the Floral Envelopes in Helianthemum vulgare. By Professor DICKSON.

(Read 13th July 1882.)

It has long been known that the three large sepals and the petals in this plant are convolute in the opposite directions. It does not, however, appear to have been previously noticed that the contortion or convolution of each of these floral envelopes is alternately to right and to left in the flowers along the false axis of the scorpioid cyme. This fact is of considerable interest in connection with the theory of the scorpioid arrangement as the result of heterodromy of the leaf-spirals in the successive axes of which this cyme is made up; a theory of the truth of which still more conclusive evidence was afforded by the late Professor Hofmeister, who showed that in the flowers of *Boraginaceæ*, such as *Echium* and *Cerinthe*, the calycine segments of the successive flowers on the cyme form an alternately right- and left-handed quincuncial arrangement.

On a Monstrosity in the Flower of Iris Pseudacorus.

By Professor DICKSON.

(Read 13th July 1882.)

In a specimen gathered recently at an excursion to Longniddry the outer perianth segments were normal; but of the inner ones only two were normal, whilst the third one was nearly completely metamorphosed into a stamen with distinctly formed filament and anther containing pollen, the extremity of the anther ending in a petaloid expansion. And in each of the three unopened flowers of the same inflorescence there was, in like manner, a fourth stamen of somewhat smaller size than the three normal

ones, and similarly taking the place of a segment of the inner perianth. Examples of an advance in metamorphosis such as this are of rare occurrence, although cases of retrograde metamorphosis, such as conversion of stamens into petals, are very common.

Report on the Vegetation in the Garden of the Royal Botanic Institution, Glasgow, from January till November 1882.

By ROBERT BULLEN, Curator. Communicated by the President.

JANUARY.

During the month the thermometer has been at the freezing-point on four occasions, and below it only twice, the lowest temperatures registered being during the nights of 8th and 28th, when 31° and 26° are recorded; the highest temperature being at noon on the 9th, with a little sun.

Vegetation unusually forward, buds of many hardy shrubs expanding rapidly. Some of the hardier *Loniceras* have young growths two to three inches in length. A large plant of *Cydonia japonica*, nailed against the east wall of the Curator's house, is very beautiful, being in leaf and bloom. Rhubarb (var. *Victoria*) in the open border is from four to six inches high. Hellebores, Polyanthus, Crocus, Snowdrops in bloom. Day-lilies (*Hemerocallis*) have leaves six inches long, and many other herbaceous plants are growing fast. I have never previously known grass make such rapid growth at this time of the year.

FEBRUARY.

During the month the thermometer has been below the freezing-point on six occasions, the lowest reading being on the 15th; the highest being 60° , on the 12th.

Petasites vulgaris was in full bloom the first week in the month; *Daphne Mezereum*, *Sisyrinchium*, and *Scilla italica* and *siberica* by the middle of the month. *Ribes sanguinea* was noticed in bloom on the 26th on the banks of the River Kelvin. *Pulmonaria officinalis* and *Hepatica*