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I. Notice of *Pandanus odoratissimus* (Fragrant Screw-pine), now flowering in the Palm-house at the Royal Botanic Garden

Professor Balfour

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accounts to be perfectly erroneous, and in some instances purposely false. The insect is the *Tettigometra*, which buries itself in the ground to rest till the Cicada bursts out from it, as the butterfly from the caterpillar's chrysalis. The plant is a *Clavaria*, no way differing from that *Clava simplex* but in that it has no lobes from its sides (pray see if you have such; this is the season). If the creature perishes by accident, the seeds of this fungus falling upon it, shoot first a germ, and then the entire plant grows from it. This is the whole matter, and there is no more miracle in the place of its growth than in that of our fungus *ex pede equino*. I blush that any one should have invented such falsehoods, as that of the mushroom growing to a tree; I blush much more that naturalists should have confirmed them. Torrubias, as a Spaniard, might be expected to exaggerate; but that a Jew should scandalise himself by such a vain credulity is stranger. I hope Mr Edwards will retract his error. His book is not yet published, and I have given him notice of it.—I am, with great respect and esteem, Sir, your very humble servant,
(Signed) J. HILL.

12th March 1863.—Professor BALFOUR, Vice-President, in the Chair.

The following gentleman was elected a Resident Fellow:—

JOHN MURRAY MOORE, Esq.

The following donations to the Society's Library were laid on the table:—

Proceedings of the Royal Horticultural Society, Vol. III., No. 3.—From the Society.

Transactions of the Royal Scottish Society of Arts, Vol. V., Part 4.—From the Society.

Transactions of the Scottish Arboricultural Society, Vol. II., Part 3.—From the Society.

Seemann's Journal of Botany, No. 2.—From the Editor.

Transactions of the Tyneside Naturalists' Field Club, Vol. V., Part 4.—From the Club.

American Patent Office Report, 1861.—From the Commissioners.

Verhandlungen der Botanischen Vereins für die Provinz Brandenburg, &c., redigirt von Dr P. Ascherson, 1861–62.—From Dr Braun, Berlin.

The following donation to the Herbarium was announced:—

From Dr Cox, Sydney—New Zealand plants.

The following donations to the Museum at the Royal Botanic Garden were noticed :—

From Peter White, Esq.—Portion of Stem of Birch, with a remarkable woody excrescence on one side

From Charles Black, Esq.—Acorns of Oak (*alcornoque*) from Seville.

From S. C. Mackenzie, Esq.—Section of fruit of Mangosteen, modelled in wax.

Professor Balfour noticed the death of Dr L. Pappe, Colonial Botanist at the Cape of Good Hope, author of “*Silva Capensis*,” and “*Prodromus Floræ Capensis Medicæ*.”

The following Communications were read :—

- I. *Notice of Pandanus odoratissimus (Fragrant Screw-pine), now flowering in the Palm-house at the Royal Botanic Garden.* By Professor BALFOUR. (Plate XII.)

Pandanus odoratissimus has recently produced pistilliferous flowers in the Palm-house at the Royal Botanic Garden. The plant is a native of the East Indies, China, and the Islands of the Pacific Ocean. The plant in the garden is about fifty years old, and has attained a height of 40 feet, with a stem about two feet in circumference. It has sixteen large alternate branches, and is provided with sixty aerial roots, some of them five feet long. (Plate XII. fig. 1.) The leaves vary in length from three and a half to five feet. The plant has produced two globular spadices of pistillate flowers (fig. 2). As no staminate flowers have appeared on any of the plants in the Palm House, the fruit will not be perfected. The fragrance is chiefly confined to the staminate flowers. The plant is used for hedges and for various economical purposes, such as the preparation of matting, bags, baskets, &c. A specimen of the pistilliferous spadix was exhibited. The species, so far as known, has not previously produced flowers in the botanic gardens of this country.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE XII.

- Fig. 1. Sketch of plant in the Palm House of the Edinburgh Botanic Garden.
Fig. 2. Branch with leaves and globular cluster of fruit.

- II. *On a Method of taking Impressions of Plants by means of Printers' Ink.* By WALTER ELLIOT, Esq., of Wolfelee.

Mr Elliot explained to the meeting his process of taking impressions of fresh plants by means of a press and printers' ink. The specimens are covered equally on both sides with the ink by means of a roller, and then placed in the press between sheets of paper, and pressure applied. The whole process is exceedingly simple, and may prove useful to travellers. The press in operation was exhibited.