

of soil which generally hold good, but it might be noted that in some parts of Ceylon cinchona trees thrive in stiff clay soil near a swamp and give a good proportion of quinine.

The analyses on p. 47 need not have contained the item "Sulphuric acid, carbonic acid, and chlorine not determined," for they must have been absent, as the other constituents make up the 100 parts.

On p. 50, reference is made to "phosphoric acid not being so high as in soil formed from sedimentary geological formations." It must be remembered that our chief formation is but a metamorphosed sedimentary one, and metamorphic action would not destroy phosphoric acid.

With regard to the chapters on weeding, roads, draining, planting, nurseries, they are based on experience, and will hold good generally. Part IV. deals with manuring. On this there is much to be learnt, as very few experiments have been tried and the bark tested by analysis. More information on this is very desirable.

Messrs. Rucker and Bencraft's unit value of 1/9 or 1/9 1/2 is too high except for high percentages. Allowance must be made for manufacturer's charges.

It would be interesting to know why the outer cells of the bark, as stated on p. 28, and 112, are richer in quinine, which is correct, but this does not agree with the order of the formation of the alkaloids given on p. 11. First uncrystallizable quinine; next crystallizable quinine to cinchonidine to cinchonine.

Mr. Karslake's process will no doubt be found to be exceedingly good. It is a capital way of punishing a tree and at the same subjecting it to a minimum of harm. Quinine and its partners are stored up in the bark, and by punishing a tree in this way its energy is then diverted to making good the loss of that which has been or is about to be (in Mr. Karslake's process) taken away.

The great changes to which bark is subjected, pointed out on p. 141, should be a sufficient inducement to establish a local manufactory here, and ship home either the crude alkaloids or the pure, which could be done for a moderate outlay and would prove remunerative. The latter part of the first paragraph (p. 165) is somewhat complex. Are we to gather from this that, when a tree is dying from ringing or other causes, the alkaloids are actually drawn up to the leaves, and that disorganization of tissue below prevents its return? Although it may be regarded as a fallacy that checking a tree increases the richness of the bark, yet there is every reason to believe that, checking, by stripping, shaving, or Mr. Karslake's process does make it richer, and there is also evidence to show that other modes of reasonable injury serve the same purpose.

Dr. Trimen's chapter on the characters of the different species will be a great guide to those who wish to follow up the outward characters of the various kinds. A little information might have been given on the dry bark characters, as far as is known. On p. 188 appendix, regarding the analyses A. and B., the salts of the alkaloids should not be added to the cinchonine alkaloid and then called total. The total alkaloids in A. and B. would be much less than the quantity stated.

Mr. Owen deserves great credit for this work, and we trust that a second edition will soon be required. It is a book which ought to be in the hands of every planter, of cinchona as well as of those interested in quinine.

[We shall print off slips with the above useful critique and put one inside each manual.—Ed.]

AN APPEAL.

The committee of the Kandy Temperance Hall are desirous of appealing to the general public, for donations of either newspapers, magazines, books and money. The hall has now been established for several years, and is almost self-supporting. The expenses, however, connected with the working of the institution are considerable, and to a great extent preclude the committee from making the Hall as attractive as they would like, in the matter of literature. They cannot afford to buy English papers and periodicals, much as they might desire it. While the modest subscription of fifty cents a month continues, to do so would simply mean running into debt. Now every mail brings into the island immense numbers of newspapers and magazines, which, when read, are tossed aside as useless; and if any one has a desire to forward and help this really good work in Kandy, it can easily be done at a trifling cost by reposting either papers or periodicals after having been read to the manager of the Kandy Temperance Hall. The Hall is quite unsectarian, and any kind of honest, healthy literature will be appreciated and welcomed. As there is a library in connection with the Hall, donations of books are also asked for. People going home have often a few volumes by them with which they don't know very well what to do. For to sell them is but to throw them away, so little as a rule is given for them. In cases like these, we would say that the owner would get much more real value out of the books, by remembering the wants of the Temperance Hall Library, and sending them on there. Others who are not leaving for home may have stray books which they would willingly part with for the sake of benefiting the many. To such we would say, avail yourself of this opening. The committee also ask for money. Now these are hard times, and all know it. Yet, still there may be some who have a R5 or B10 note to spare for the funds of this Association. The treasurer, Mr. Wm. Mather, would in such cases gratefully acknowledge the receipt. The Temperance Hall in Kandy, is a highly commendable institution and in a quiet way does a special work, which deserves encouragement and support from the general public. We trust that the effects of this appeal will be such as to cheer the hearts of its committee and members.

LEDGERIANAS IN THE WYNAAD.—Capt. Cox has been so successful in propagating the C. cal. Ledgerianas in the Wynaad and they thrive so well that it is expected by the Nilgiri Planters' Association, they will gradually supersede succirubras altogether throughout the district.

THE NEW UNDER-SECRETARY FOR THE COLONIES is as notable a man in his way as is Mr. Grant-Duff, his predecessor. Mr. Courtney is one of the most scholarly men in Parliament, a good speaker, whose matter is better than his oratory, though the latter is fairly good, an advanced but yet thoughtful Liberal—a man of Robert Lowe's stamp, who would like to educate the masses before granting them the franchise. On the occasion of Mr. Trevelyan's County Franchise motion coming on in 1879, Mr. Courtney made the speech of the evening, not so much in opposition as in insisting that a redistribution of seats and provision for the representation of minorities ought to precede any further extension of the franchise. He brought the House down, again and again, by his telling hits at the existing system and the danger which would ensue if Mr. Trevelyan's proposal was carried out as it stood. This especially delighted the Tories who cheered Mr. Courtney to the echo, as he quoted from John Stuart Mill and afterwards from a still greater political authority, Wm. Ewart Gladstone, passages against the very course for which Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Bright and their colleagues, were about to vote. There was quite a little sensation as Mr. Gladstone rose bareheaded to ask from whence Mr. Courtney made his extracts—the great Liberal leader having forgotten the essay in which the opinion occurred. This was about 1 a.m., in a crowded house of fully 500 members, the division following after Mr. Courtney had finished his speech and retired—he refusing to vote either way. On the next occasion we heard Mr. Courtney speak, he was Chairman of a large and interesting meeting chiefly of ladies to promote the claims of women to the franchise and equal political rights. Mr. Courtney is sure to make an able, intelligent and industrious Under-Secretary for the Colonies and we may expect him to devote some attention to the Department generally.

MR. J. MACDONALD CAMERON, F.C.S. (whose advertisement appears in our columns), was, when last mail left, busy with his Report on the Travancore properties he was called on to inspect. He is also engaged on a book on Gold, which will contain an account of his observations in Travancore.

THE "LIBURNIAN" Galle, 4th August.—The wreck of this ship was sold to-day, at the office of Messrs. Clark, Spence & Co. and realized R1,700.

THE STEAMER "DUKE OF SUTHERLAND" is shipping a cargo of 400 tons, and will leave for London to-morrow evening. No passages have been taken as yet.

GALLE, 4th August.—The Lieut.-Governor and party returned from their tour yesterday afternoon, and will leave this for Colombo by to-morrow morning's coach.

MR. CHURCHWARD of Rakwana and Kukul Korale, about whom several enquiries have been made, is said to have returned to the island by a recent mail steamer.

GOOD TEMPLARY.—A public meeting in connection with the "Excelsior" lodge will be held on Monday next, the 8th instant, (not the 18th), at Wesley College. There will be a service of song on the occasion.

A CEYLON COLONIST in the west of England wrote by last mail:—"I hope Ceylon is looking up this year. All the crops appear to be very backward in England. The weather is cold and disagreeable, which is strange for the month of June."

MR. WALTER HOME.—We would call the attention of possessors of pianos to the testimonial in our advertisement columns as to the proficiency of Mr. Home as a piano tuner. We feel sure that none who employ Mr. Home's services will have cause of regret.

GALLE VOLUNTEERS.—The volunteer movement is fast spreading in Galle. Thirty-two residents have taken their oaths, and have been enrolled. It is expected that the required number to form a Company will be completed in a few days, when drill will commence.

TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION between Matale and Anuradhapura has been imperfect since 2 p.m. to-day.

B. I. S. N. Co.—We have to acknowledge the receipt of this Company's handbook of services, which gives much useful information regarding the different routes on which the steamers run.

Planting.

LEMASTOTA, 3rd Augt.—We have had a very mild monsoon up to the end of July. Rainfall for that month only 15 inches. Since the 1st inst. it has been rather windy and threatening to rain. While I write a regular gale is blowing, tearing everything to pieces.

KANDY, 3rd August.—Thanks for the Tropical Agriculturist. I have sent three copies to Borneo and hope you may receive orders for copies of your new enterprise from the new colony. It is useful to have the information you print in the Observer on agricultural matters put together in such a handy form for reference. We had some rain the day before yesterday, but now it has cleared up fine. We require a much larger quantity of rain in the districts near Kandy.

CENTRAL PROVINCE, NUWARA ELIYA DISTRICT, August 1st.—You will be anxious to hear about coffee hereabouts. Well, we are pretty well off our crop and our trees are beginning to show it. Leaf disease is bad in places and generally on cropless trees. This tends to make crop and leaf-diseased trees look much the same. I am thinking that the disease is not so healthy-like this year as I have seen it. If so let us hope that there will not be as many ripe spores to germinate and produce a fresh dose as used to be. Any way I set the only way to raise coffee to advantage is to cup out doubtful coffee, and manure the good coffee up to R100 per acre per annum, over and above the other expenses of the estate. It is a big sum but not so large comparatively as £3 or £5 an acre at home where the carriage and cost of application is a mere nothing compared to what it is here. The weather has been very hot and dry for ten days. Yesterday we had a shower and to-day several good showers fell. This will do much good and ripen up a lot of crop, which another week of hot weather would have turned black. I do not think that next season's exports will be much over this year's, unless Uva comes better to the front than I think she is able to. I am driven to this conclusion, although I am convinced there is more crop on this side the country than people will generally allow themselves to think there is. For next season, I think, the coffee promises very favorably so far. Man—! but I think the old paper is improving, for we get more and more in it every day, that one wants to know about. Keep on like that and clear of the lawyers, and you'll soon lick creation for a paper. Send me a Tropical Agriculturist regularly. I must have one although I can little afford it. You might as well add to it the local produce and exchange reports and current prices of rice. It is convenient at times to turn back and see what coffee is fetching F. O. B. When the time comes, I will have the pleasure to add my mite to the Fund for a suitable acknowledgement to the old gentleman. No man that I know more deserves some acknowledgement of his long and persevering endeavours to benefit this country, not to speak of his last, I consider, most successful visit to Australia as Commissioner. It is fine to see the tea-folks airing their dirty clothes in public: good is sure to come out of it.

THE "TROPICAL AGRICULTURIST."

(From Correspondents to-day.)

"The Tropical Agriculturist continues to improve. It will prove a most useful book of reference for all in any way connected with tropical produce."

"It is with great pleasure that I have to request you to put my name down as yearly subscriber to the Tropical Agriculturist. It is certainly a most praiseworthy production and one which well deserves the support of every Ceylon and Indian planter."

CRICKET, LAWN TENNIS, AND FOOTBALL.

The enclosed is score of a cricket match played at Kandapola cricket ground, on July 29th and 30th, between the K. C. C. and the Rakwana C. C. A lawn tennis match was also played; the K. C. C. being represented by Messrs. Chamberlin and Hadow, and the R. C. C. by Messrs. Shand and Eastley. The meeting finished up with a football match (9 a side) which after a 40 minutes' struggle resulted in favour of the K. C. C. by a try to two touch-downs. Thus ended a very cordial meeting.

KANDAPOLA C. C. vs. RAKWANA C. C.

Table with 2 columns: 1st Innings and 2nd Innings. Lists players and their scores for both teams.

ANALYSIS OF BOWLING: FIRST INNINGS.

Table with 4 columns: Over, Maidens, Runs, Wickets. Lists bowlers and their performance in the first innings.

RAKWANA'S INNINGS.

Table with 4 columns: Over, Maidens, Runs, Wickets. Lists bowlers and their performance in Rakwana's innings.

Rakwana: two men short. Won by an innings and 23 runs. Mr. Shand's innings fine but lucky; his bowling was well on the spot. Mr. Borrett also bowled well.

ANALYSIS OF BOWLING.

Table with 5 columns: (ver. Maidens, Runs, Wickets, Wides. Lists bowlers and their performance across both innings.

SONNET LXXXV.

I live lamenting the departed days I spent in loving merely mortal thing: Though no mean sample I of self might bring. My wings to soaring flight I do not raise. Thou, who behold'st my worthless impious ways, High heav'n's invisible immortal King, Give to the strayed and weak soul succouring, And fill its wants with grace for which it prays. Grant that my life, in tempest lived and fray, May end in peace and safety. If its stay Was vain, at least be honest its depart! In those life moments still advanced my heart, And in death's hour, deign lend thine arm to me. Thou know'st I have no other hope but thee.

VANTOSKY BENTON.

—From the Italian of Petrarca.]