

The Hon. Mr. Chamberlin mentioned, as a curious circumstance, that the Cape gooseberry that used to be sold in Auckland for 3d. per pound, could not now be obtained for less than 1s. He considered it a most valuable fruit, but its cultivation did not seem to be successfully achieved.

Mr. Kirk said that the Cape gooseberry would grow on any good soil that was suitable to the tomato, and attributed its disappearance to the pheasant. It is not creditable to New Zealand that there should be such an enormous importation of fresh and preserved fruits from other countries, for with ordinary attention this colony should not only be self-supporting but should also be a large exporter of the best kinds of fruit. He looked forward to the successful cultivation of the orange on a large scale. The vine he did not expect to be successful, as far as making wine was concerned, as there is a want of sufficient sun-light in New Zealand at the proper season. The author had not mentioned several important plants, such as tobacco and chincona, from which quinine is made; the latter had been shown by the Auckland Acclimatisation Society to thrive well. He thought it unfortunate that there was not an experimental botanical garden established in New Zealand. Had such been the case ten or twelve years ago, the settlers might now be in possession of several valuable sources of income.

Dr. Hector thought that the author would feel gratified at the reception his paper had met with. He did not agree with Mr. Kirk that there was a deficiency of sun-light, as observations had shown that in the interior of both islands the sun had a power that was unequalled in any other temperate climate, and that in consequence, even in the interior District of Otago, light wines could be produced of excellent quality.

The President agreed with the last expressed opinion, and pointed out that the power of the sun depended on the dryness of the atmosphere, and that, again, on the physical conformation of the country, so that while some parts of New Zealand were unsuited to perfecting the grape other districts were well adapted for its cultivation.

2. "On certain New Zealand plants that have been successfully cultivated in Scotland," by Mr. W. Gorrie, of Rait Hall; communicated by Dr. Hector.

ABSTRACT.

The author described the growth of many New Zealand plants, both useful and ornamental, that he had found would withstand the severity of the Scotch climate, and mentioned the economic uses to which they could be applied. In particular he instanced the application of the ribbon-wood as being better adapted for the manufacture of paper pulp than any other plant at present used for the purpose. In concluding, the author suggested that an association should be formed for the purpose of introducing useful New Zealand plants for cultivation on the West Coast of Scotland.

Dr. Hector was not aware that there was such a deficiency of New Zealand plants in Scotland and England as the author stated. In Venice he had been pleased to find a very interesting collection of the New Zealand vegetation, but the best he had seen was in the Royal Society's gardens at Hobart, which was probably due to the exertions of Sir Frederick A. Weld, K.C.M.G., when Governor there. It was worthy of note that in all the New Zealand plants of that collection the leaves were very much reduced in size, no doubt owing to the effect of the change of climate.

Mr. Kirk said that the statement that the ribbon-wood was suitable for the manufacture of paper was new to him, and of great importance.

3. "On the Auriferous Cements of the Mount Arthur district," by Mr. J. Park, of the Geological Department.