



The Royal Society
of Medicine

The Victorian Botanist

Free admission

5 August - 26 October 2019



The Library, first floor,
Royal Society of Medicine,
1 Wimpole Street, London



Exhibition Curator
Robert Greenwood

With additional material by
Robert Greenwood

Graphic Designer
Henry Trickey

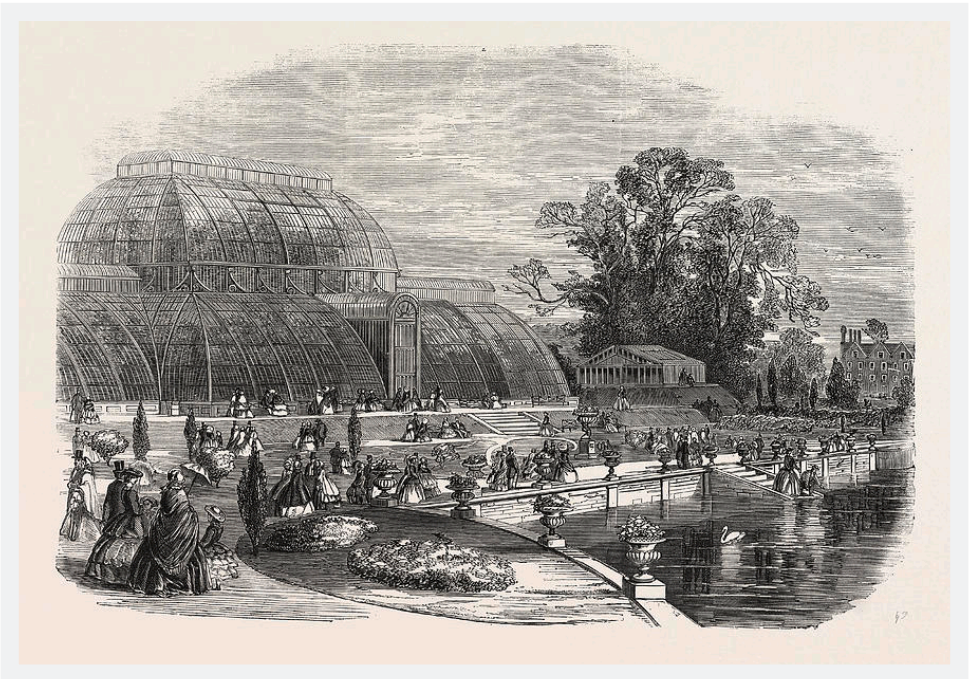
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Exhibition hours
Monday - Thursday 9am - 9pm
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Saturday 10am - 4.30pm

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uring the Victorian period, botany was seen as a healthy, outdoor pursuit. It was a respectable and sociable extension of the interest in domestic gardening. It was bloodless and did not require the capture or destruction of animal species and was associated with genteel interests such as flower arranging and painting. It was Christian in its celebration of the creator's handiwork. It was not a costly pursuit and required only a simple magnifying glass, a vasculum, or tin container, in which to collect samples of freshly-picked plants, paper in which to press plants, and an inexpensive handbook as a guide and an aid to identification. It was also easy and did not necessarily require expert or academic training for its enjoyment.

The books in this exhibition are all drawn from the collection of the Library of the Royal Society of Medicine and include illustrated works and detailed and closely-printed taxonomic lists of plant species.



Kew Gardens is perhaps the most famous example of the Victorians love for Botany.



John Claudius Loudon, a Scottish botanist, garden designer and author.

John Claudius Loudon (1783 – 1843)

Arboretum et fruticetum britannicum : or, The trees and shrubs of Britain : native and foreign, hardy and half-hardy, pictorially and botanically delineated, and scientifically and popularly described; with their propagation, culture, management, and uses in the arts, in useful and ornamental plantations, and in landscape-gardening; preceded by a historical and geographical outline of the trees and shrubs of temperate climates throughout the world.

London : Printed for the author and sold by Longman, Orme, Brown, Green, and Longmans ; the partially coloured and coloured copies, by James Rigeway and sons, 1838.

292.d.20 – 27

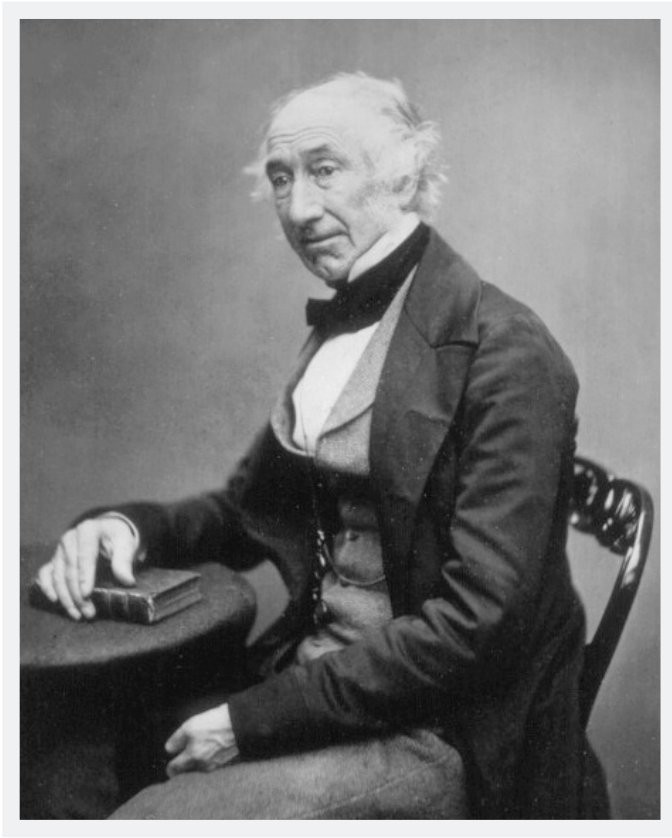
This work has been described as “a survey on a scale never before attempted of all the trees grown in the British Isles, whether native or exotic.” Seven artists were commissioned to supply the illustrations, and production costs left its author, the landscape gardener and horticulturalist John Claudius Loudon, £10,000 in debt.

John Claudius Loudon (1783 – 1843)

A catalogue of all the plants indigenous, cultivated in, or introduced to Britain / by J.C. Loudon, Part I. The natural arrangement ... part II. The Linnæan arrangement ..., preceded by an introduction to the Linnæan system.

A new ed. / with a supplement including all the new plants down to March, 1850 and a new general index to the whole work / edited by Mrs. Loudon ; assisted by William H. Baxter and David Wooster.

227.j.13



Sir William Jackson Hooker, an English systematic botanist and organiser, and botanical illustrator. He held the post of Regius Professor of Botany at Glasgow University, and was Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Sir William Jackson Hooker (1785 – 1865)

The British flora : in two volumes / by Sir William Jackson Hooker. Vol. I, Comprising the phænogamous or flowering plants, and the ferns. The fifth edition / with additions and corrections, and numerous figures illustrative of the umbelliferous plants, the composite plants, the grasses, and the ferns.

London : Longman, Brown, Green, and Longmans, 1842.

248.b.10

In April 1841 the botanist Sir William Jackson Hooker was appointed director of the royal gardens at Kew which then comprised 11 acres. Four years later, another 271 acres had been added, glasshouses repaired and extended, a new arboretum had been planted, and work commenced on a new palm house. Visitor numbers came to exceed half a million a year.

Journal of Botany and Kew Garden Miscellany

Edited by Sir William Jackson Hooker.

316e



Erica massonii by Franz Bauer.

Albert Isaiah Coffin (1790 – 1866)

The history of the progress of medical botany in Great Britain, and the causes of the opposition to it by the medical profession.

London, 1864.

Tract 3357

The medical botanist Albert Isaiah Coffin was born in Ohio and came to Britain in 1838. He advocated the medical properties of lobelia as an emetic, and cayenne pepper for warmth.

Charles Johnson (1791 - 1880)

British poisonous plants / illustrated by John E. Sowerby ; described by Charles Johnson and C. Pierpoint Johnson. 2nd ed. / illustrated with thirty-two coloured plates, including the principal poisonous fungi.

London : John van Voorst, 1861.

A.9.h.27

In 1830, on the founding of Guy's Hospital medical school, Charles Johnson was appointed lecturer in botany. This work is illustrated by John E. Sowerby (1825 – 1870), grandson of the naturalist James Sowerby (1757 – 1822) whose work, *English Botany*, was published in 36 volumes over 23 years, commencing in 1790. It contained 2,592 hand-coloured engravings and came to be known as *Sowerby's Botany*.

James Sowerby (1757 – 1822)

English botany, or Coloured figures of British plants / edited by John T. Boswell Syme, &c. ; the figures by J. Sowerby, J. de C. Sowerby, J. W. Salter, and John Edward Sowerby.

3rd ed. / enlarged, re-arranged and entirely revised.

London, 1863-1870.

A.10.j.1 – 11

This is one of the 11 volumes of the third edition of *Sowerby's Botany*, still in print, and still undergoing enlargement, re-arrangement, and revision during the Victorian era.

John Lindley (1799 - 1865)

Flora medica; a botanical account of all the more important plants used in medicine, in different parts of the world.

London., 1838.

243.g.20

The botanist and horticulturalist John Lindley pioneered the reform of botanical nomenclature such that the practice of ending the names of all botanical families with the suffix "aceae" and of all orders with "ales" derives from his recommendation.

Lindley's collection of books on botany forms the basis for the Royal Horticultural Society's Lindley Library.

John Lindley (1799 - 1865)

The vegetable kingdom.

2nd ed.

London : Bradbury and Evans, 1847.

284.j.13

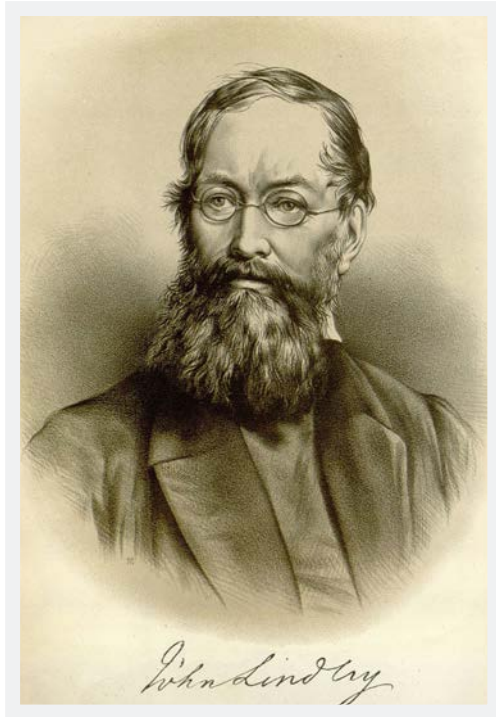
John Lindley (1799 - 1865)

An introduction to botany.

4th ed., with corrections and numerous additions.

London : Longman, Brown, Green, & Longmans, 1848.

258.i.1 – 2



John Lindley, an English botanist, gardener and orchidologist.

John Lindley (1799 - 1865)

The vegetable kingdom; or, The structure, classification, and uses of plants, illustrated upon the natural system.

3d ed., with corrections and additional genera.

London : Bradbury & Evans, 1853.

243.f.18

John Lindley (1799 - 1865)

The treasury of botany ; a popular dictionary of the vegetable kingdom with which is incorporated a glossary of botanical terms.

London : Longmans, Green and Co., 1899.

279.a.7 - 8

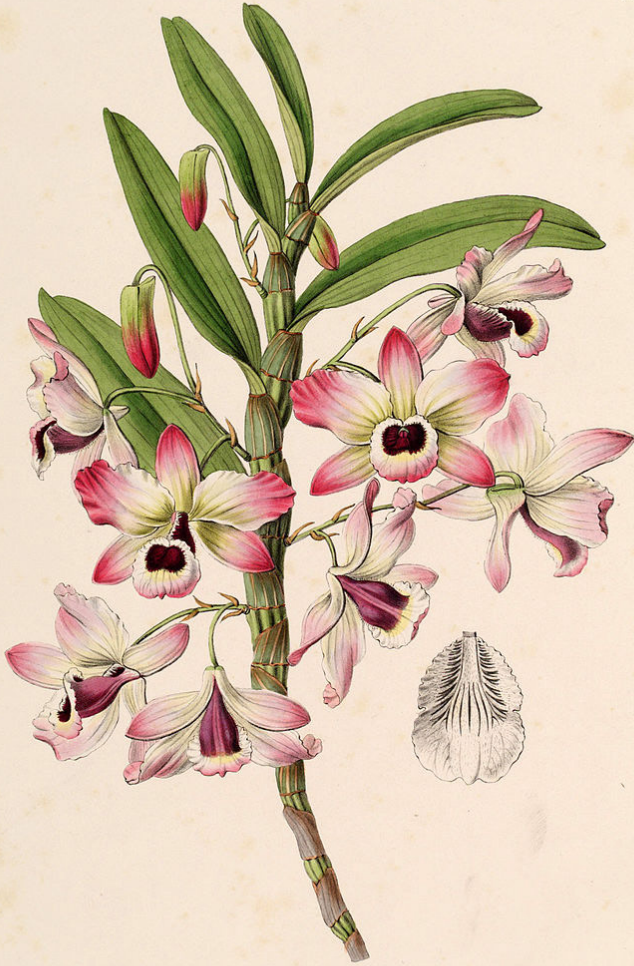
Daniel Charles Macreight (1799 - 1856)

Manual of British Botany.

London, 1837.

228.c.26

Daniel Chambers Macreight worked in Augustin-Pyramus de Candolle's herbarium at Geneva during the early 1830s, and later in the decade was prominent in medico-botanical circles in London. In 1837, he published Manual of British Botany covering both native and cultivated plants.



Wgt. Drake, del.

Dendrobium nobile.

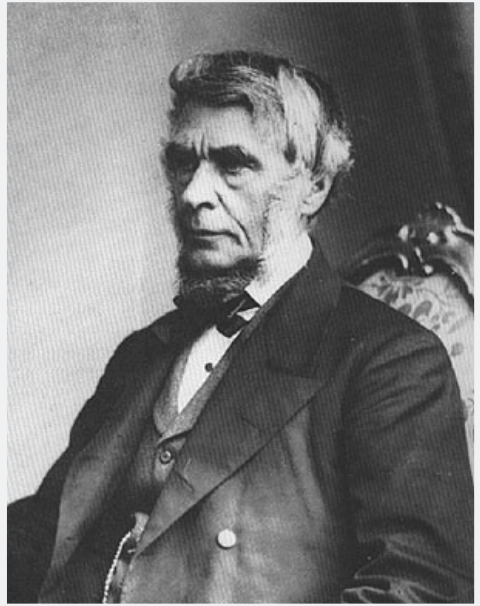
En. Scam. by J. Lindley.

Pub. by J. Hodgson & Sons, 169, Piccadilly, Sep. 2, 1837.

Illustration of *Dendrobium nobile* by John Lindley



Benthamiella patagonica, one of several plants named in Bentham's honour.



George Bentham, an English botanist, described by the weed botanist Duane Isely as "the premier systematic botanist of the nineteenth century".

George Bentham (1800 - 1884)

Handbook of the British flora: a description of the flowering plants and ferns indigenous to, or naturalized in, the British Isles. For the use of beginners and amateurs.

London : L. Reeve, 1858.

259.f.16

The botanist George Bentham's Handbook of the British Flora was the result of several years' work. It is said that Bentham would shave by candlelight before dawn in order to have an added hour of daylight in which to study his plants before breakfast.

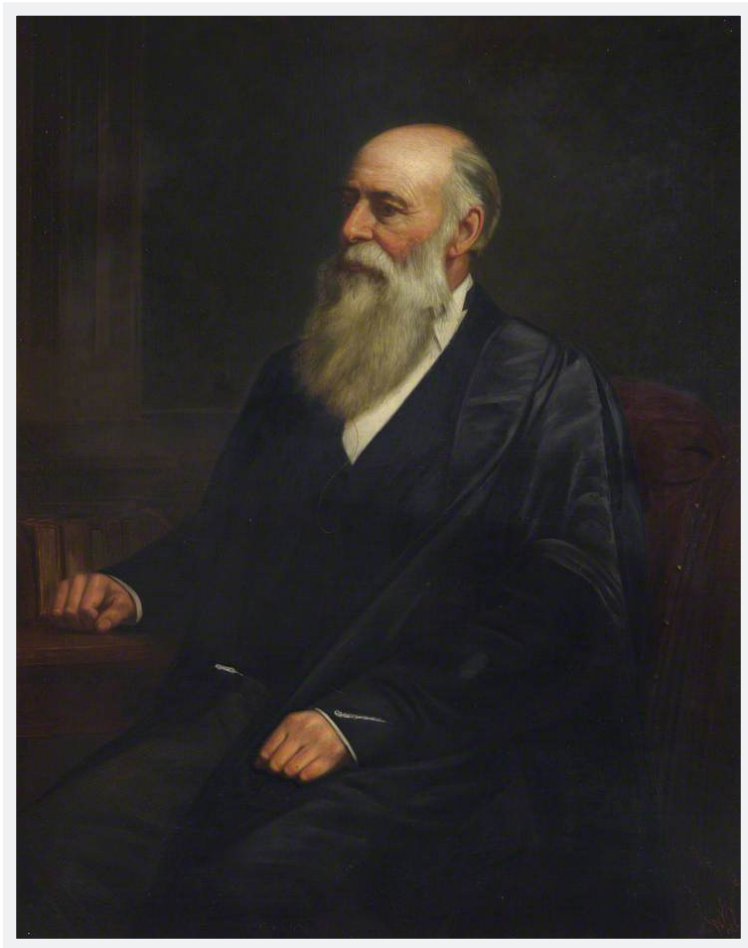
Sir Joseph Paxton (1803 - 1865)

A pocket botanical dictionary; comprising the names, history, and culture of all plants known in Britain; with a full explanation of technical terms.

London : Bradbury & Evans, 1849.

263.j.9

In 1826 the landscape gardener and architect Joseph Paxton became head gardener at Chatsworth House in Derbyshire. Under his care, Chatsworth came to be the most famous garden in England. He based his gardening on the works of John Claudius Loudon despite the fact that in 1831 Loudon published a paper criticising the gardens at Chatsworth. Paxton published a reply and eventually he and Loudon became close friends.



Charles Cardale Babington, an English botanist and chair of botany at the University of Cambridge in 1861.

Charles Cardale Babington (1808 - 1895)

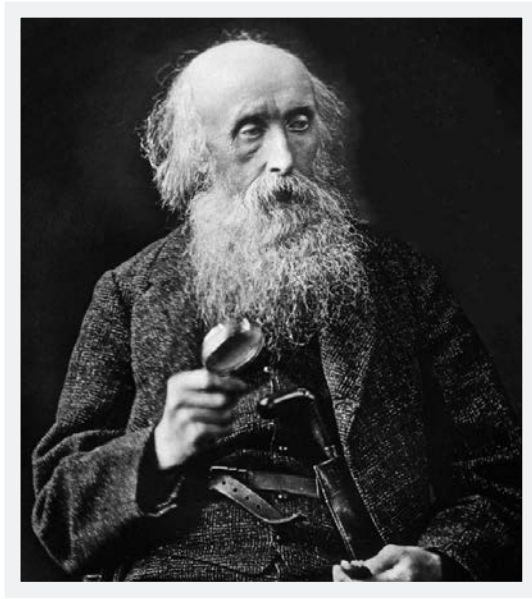
Manual of British botany, : containing the flowering plants and ferns arranged according to the natural orders.

5th ed. / with many additions and corrections.

London : J. Van Voorst, 1862.

250.j.24

The botanist and archaeologist Charles Cardale Babington's Manual of British Botany was first published in 1843 by which time he was regarded as the leader of taxonomic research into British higher plants. His Manual was reprinted and revised regularly to incorporate new information and in a size convenient for field research being easily accommodated in a coat pocket.



John Hutton Balfour, a British botanist.

John Hutton Balfour (1808 - 1884)

A manual of botany: being an introduction to the study of the structure, physiology, and classification of plants.

London : J. J. Griffin ; Glasgow : R. Griffin, 1849.

291.g.5

Balfour studied medicine at Edinburgh, graduating MD in 1832, later qualifying MRCS and FRCS Edinburgh before continuing his surgical studies in Paris. He returned to Edinburgh in 1834 and took up private practice. But his passion for botany took over and in 1840 he began lecturing on the subject at the Edinburgh Extra Academical School of Medicine. After a stint at Glasgow, he returned to Edinburgh as professor of medicine and botany, became regius keeper of the Royal Botanic Garden, and was appointed queen's botanist for Scotland. Although Balfour served as dean of the Edinburgh medical faculty for nearly 30 years, he devoted himself to botany and took no regular part in clinical teaching.

John Hutton Balfour (1808 - 1884)

Class book of botany : being an introduction to the study of the vegetable kingdom.

Edinburgh, 1859.

243.f.19

Balfour contributed little original work to the study of botany but distinguished himself as a teacher and author of textbooks on the subject.

John Hutton Balfour (1808 - 1884)

Class book of botany : being an introduction to the study of the vegetable kingdom.

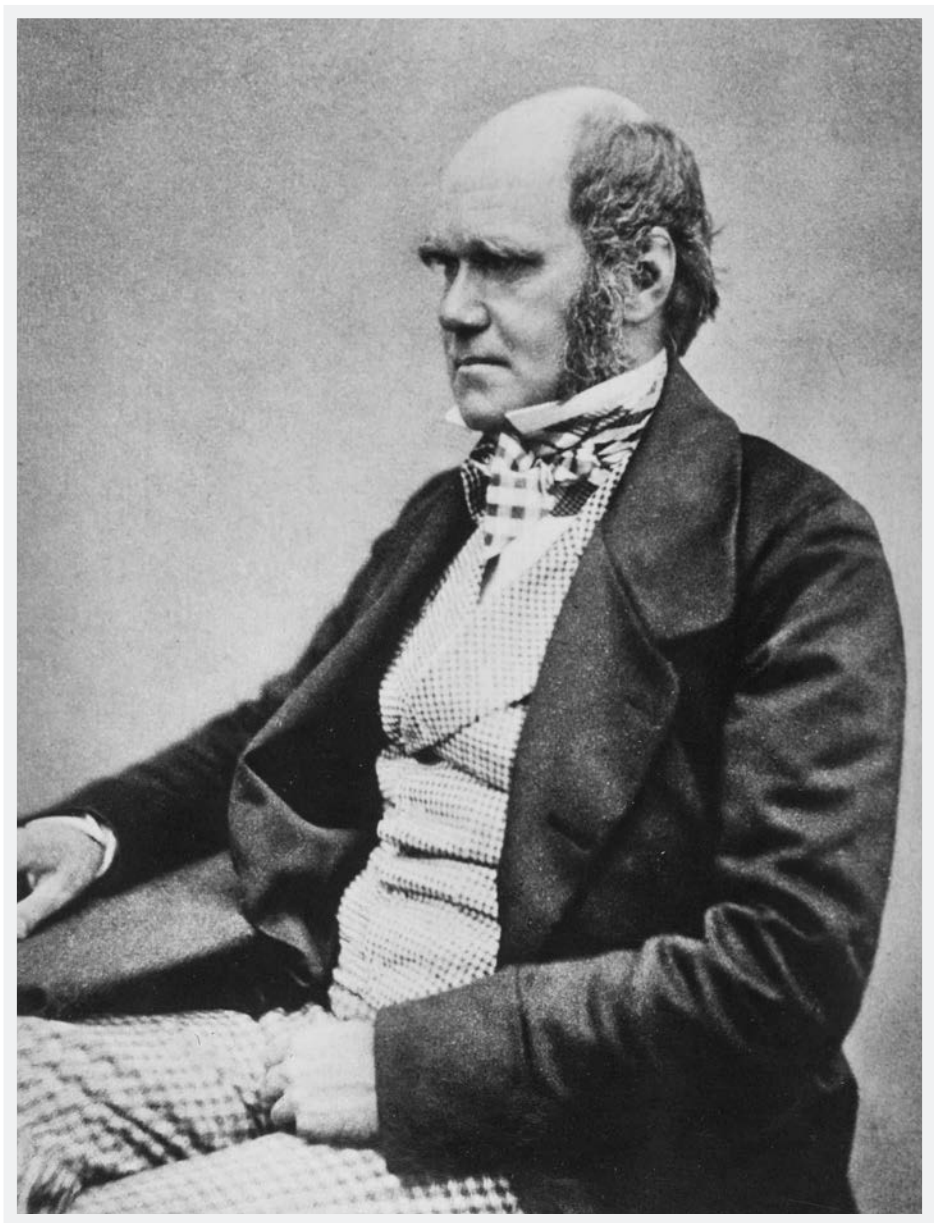
3rd ed.

Edinburgh : Adam and Charles Black, 1871.

243.e.21



Ascidiae by Ernst Haeckel.



Darwin, circa 1854, when he was preparing *On the Origin of Species* for publication.

Charles Darwin (1809 – 1882)

On the various contrivances by which British and foreign orchids are fertilised by insects : and on the good effects of intercrossing.

London : J. Murray, 1862.

Heritage Centre (DAR)

“On May 15th, 1862, my little book on the Fertilisation of Orchids, which cost me ten months’ work, was published: most of the facts had been slowly accumulated during several previous years. During the summer of 1839, and, I believe, during the previous summer, I was led to attend to the cross-fertilisation of flowers by the aid of insects, from having come to the conclusion in my speculations on the origin of species, that crossing played an important part in keeping specific forms constant.”

Charles Darwin : his life told in an autobiographical chapter. London, John Murray, 1902

Charles Darwin (1809 – 1882)

The variation of animals and plants under domestication.

London : J. Murray, 1868.

Heritage Centre (DAR)

“My Variation of Animals and Plants under Domestication was begun in the beginning of 1860, but was not published until the beginning of 1868. It was a big book, and cost me four years and two months’ hard labour. It gives all my observations and an immense number of facts collected from various sources, about our domestic productions. In the second volume the causes and laws of variation, inheritance, &c., are discussed, as far as our present state of knowledge permits.”

Charles Darwin : his life told in an autobiographical chapter. London, John Murray, 1902

Charles Darwin (1809 – 1882)

Insectivorous plants.

London, 1875

Heritage Centre (DAR)

“In the summer of 1860 I was idling and resting near Hartfield, where two species of Sundew abound; and I noticed that numerous insects had been entrapped by the leaves. I carried home some plants, and on giving them insects saw the movements of the tentacles, and this made me think it probable that the insects were caught for some special purpose. During subsequent years, whenever I had leisure, I pursued my experiments, and my book on Insectivorous Plants was published in July 1875 – that is sixteen years after my first observations. The delay in this case, as with all my other books, has been a great advantage to me; for a man after a long interval can criticise his own work, almost as well as if it were that of another person. The fact that a plant should secrete, when properly excited, a fluid containing an acid and ferment, closely analogous to the digestive fluid of an animal, was certainly a remarkable discovery.”

Charles Darwin : his life told in an autobiographical chapter. London, John Murray, 1902

Charles Darwin (1809 – 1882)

The movements and habits of climbing plants.

London, 1876

Heritage Centre (DAR)

“I was led to take up this subject by reading a short paper by Asa Gray, published in 1858. He sent me seeds, and on raising some plants I was so much fascinated and perplexed by the revolving movements of the tendrils and stems, which movements are really very simple, though appearing at first sight very complex, that I procured various other kinds of climbing plants, and studied the whole subject.”

Charles Darwin : his life told in an autobiographical chapter. London, John Murray, 1902

Charles Darwin (1809 – 1882) Sir Francis Darwin (1848 – 1925)

The power of movement in plants.

London : John Murray ..., 1880.

Heritage Centre (DAR)

"In 1880 I published, with my son Frank's assistance our Power of Movement in Plants. This was a tough piece of work. In accordance with the principle of evolution it was impossible to account for climbing plants having been developed in so many widely different groups unless all kinds of plants possess some slight power of movement of an analogous kind. This I proved to be the case; and I was further led to a rather wide generalisation, viz., that the great and important classes of movements, excited by light, the attraction of gravity, &c., are all modified forms of the fundamental movement of circumnutation. It has always pleased me to exalt plants in the scale of organised beings: and I therefore felt an especial pleasure in showing how many and what admirably well adapted movements the tip of a root possesses."

Charles Darwin : his life told in an autobiographical chapter. London, John Murray, 1902

Edward John Waring (1819 - 1891)

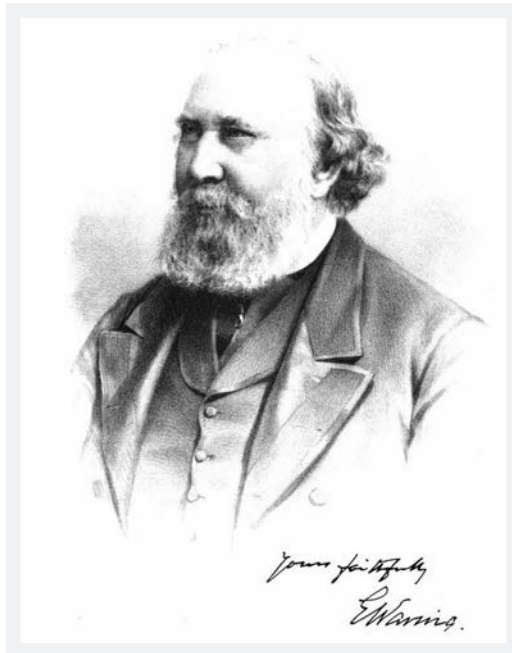
Remarks on the uses of some of the bazaar medicines and common medical plants of India.

London : Churchill [etc.], 1860

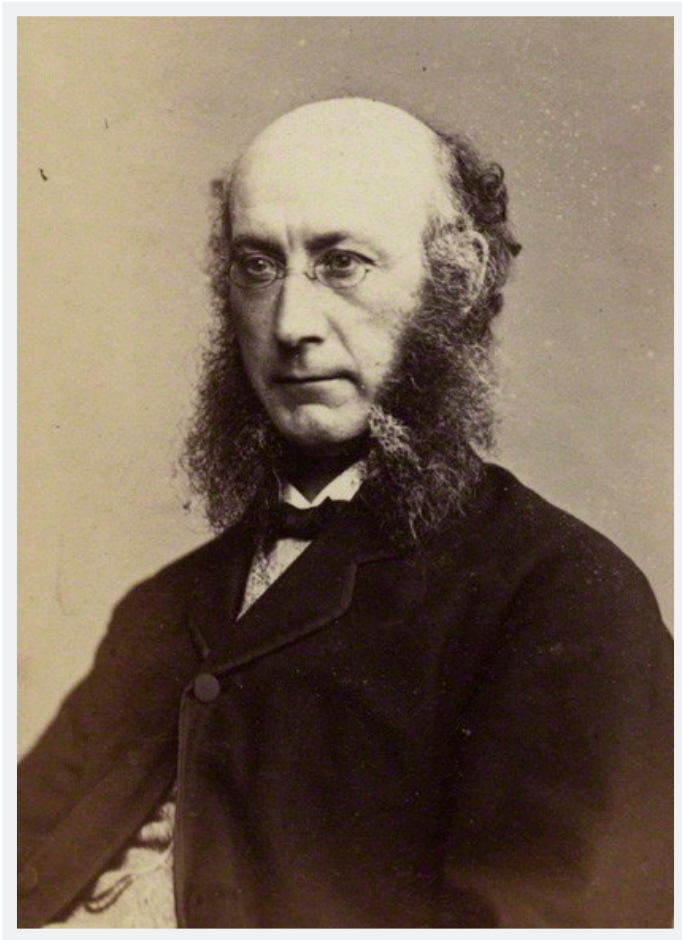
249.b.34

298.e.15

A Fellow of the Royal Medico-Chirurgical Society, the forerunner society to the Royal Society of Medicine, Edward John Waring qualified in medicine at Bristol and worked at Charing Cross Hospital. His interest in botany commenced while serving as physician to the Maharajah of Travancore, a position he held from 1856. His book on bazaar medicines was originally printed with alternate pages in English and Tamil. Later editions were translated into Malayalam and the Karen language.



Portrait of Dr. Edward John Waring in 1883.



Robert Bentley was an English botanist. He is perhaps best remembered today for the four-volume *Medicinal Plants*, published in 1880 with Henry Trimen and containing over three hundred hand-colored plates by botanist David Blair.

Robert Bentley (1821 - 1893)

A manual of botany : including the structure, functions, classification, properties, and uses of plants. 2nd ed.

London : John Churchill & Sons, 1870.

266.f.11

Robert Bentley was, in 1849, appointed lecturer in botany at the Middlesex Hospital and professor of botany to the Pharmaceutical Society. In 1859 he became professor of botany at King's College. For ten years he was editor of the *Pharmaceutical Journal*. Bentley played a key role in developing the science of pharmacognosy concerned with identifying, collecting, and describing crude drugs, and looking into the effects of climate, soils, and other environmental factors influencing the medicinal properties of plants.



The above illustration is by Anne Pratt, who was one of the best known English botanical illustrators of the Victorian age. Owing to poor health and a 'stiff knee' in childhood, she missed out on 'outdoor activities' and was encouraged to occupy herself by drawing.



Sir Clements Robert Markham was an English botanist, geographer, explorer, and writer.

Sir Clements Robert Markham (1830 - 1916)

Travels in Peru and India : while superintending the collection of chinchona plants and seeds in South America, and their introduction into India.

London : J. Murray, 1862.

231.g.17

In 1854 Sir Clements Robert Markham was commissioned by what was to become the India Office to travel to Peru and bring to India seeds from the chinchona tree, the source of quinine, then found only in Peru. The object of Markham's work was to establish the tree in India and Ceylon so as to have a ready supply of quinine. Eventually pure quinine became available throughout the Indian subcontinent.

Sir Clements Robert Markham (1830 - 1916)

Peruvian bark : a popular account of the introduction of chinchona cultivation into British India.

London : J. Murray, 1880.

265.h.16



John Lubbock, an English banker,
Liberal politician, philanthropist,
scientist and polymath.

Sir John Lubbock (1834 – 1913)

British wild flowers in relation to insects.

London, 1875.

284.i.18

A work by the entomologist Sir John Lubbock on wild flowers and insects. In 1882 Lubbock was the subject of a Punch cartoon in which he was depicted as a bee hovering above a wild flower. The verse caption to this caricature was as follows:

How doth the banking busy bee
Improve his shining hours
By studying on bank holidays
Strange insects and wild flowers!

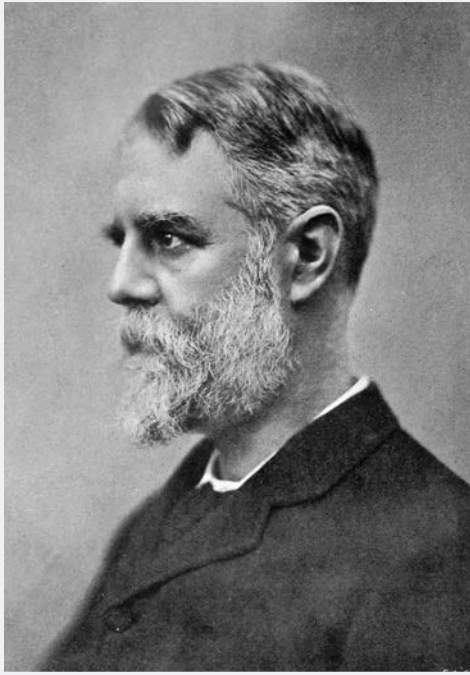
George Henslow (1835 - 1925)

Medical works of the fourteenth century : together with a list of plants recorded in contemporary writings, with their identifications.

London : Chapman and Hall, Id., 1899.

278.f.18

The son of the botanist and clergyman John Stevens Henslow (1796 – 1861), George Henslow held the lectureship in botany at St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical School from 1886 to 1890, and from 1880 to 1918 he was honorary professor of botany to the Royal Horticultural Society.



Henry Trimen was a British botanist who worked in Sri Lanka. He named several plants in the Dipterocarpaceae family.



Sydney Howard Vines was a British botanist and academic. He was Sherardian Professor of Botany at Oxford University from 1888 to 1919, and served as President of the Linnean Society of London from 1900 to 1904.

Henry Trimen (1843 - 1896)

Flora of Middlesex; a topographical and historical account of the plants found in the county; with sketches of its physical geography and climate, and of the progress of Middlesex botany during the last three centuries / by Henry Trimen and William T. Thiselton Dyer. With a map.

London : Robert Hardwicke, 1869.

251.g.19

The botanist and physician Henry Trimen was medical officer in the Strand district of London, including during a cholera epidemic, but his main interest was in botany rather than in medicine. His Flora of Middlesex, written with William T. Thiselton Dyer, who later became director of the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew, became the model for subsequent county floras. In 1879 Trimen was appointed director of the botanical gardens at Peradeniya, Ceylon.

Sydney Howard Vines (1849 - 1934)

Lectures on the physiology of plants.

Cambridge [England] : University press, 1886.

230.h.3

Sydney Howard Vines lectured in botany at Christ's College, Cambridge. In 1887, the year after his Lectures on the Physiology of Plants was published, the college supplied Vines with a building able to accommodate classes of up to 100 students.



Plants from Royal Garden of Kew by
Walter H. Fitch.

Frederick Janson Hanbury (1851 - 1938)

Edward Shearburn Marshall (1858 – 1919)

Flora of Kent : being an account of the flowering plants, ferns, etc., with notes on the topography, geology, and meteorology, and a history of the botanical investigation of the country.

London : the Author, 1899.

251.j.86

Frederick Janson Hanbury was a businessman, a botanist and an entomologist interested also in meteorology. He ran the family medical and chemical company of Allen and Hanbury, but was also a keen gardener with a large collection of orchid hybrids grown at his estate at Brockhurst House, East Grinstead. His co-author, Reverend Edward Shearburn Marshall, was Vicar of Milford, Surrey from 1890 to 1900 and later Rector of West Monkton, Somerset where the grounds of the rectory included a wood, pond, stream and a rock garden which he used as an experimental plot for his botanical researches. Marshall's particular interest was in Saxifrages and the genus *Betula*.

Magazine of Zoology and Botany

Vol.1 1837

316e

Edited and founded by the naturalists Sir William Jardine (1800 – 1874), Prideaux John Selby (1788 – 1867), and the physician and naturalist George Johnston (1797 – 1855). All three were also founders of the Ray Society formed in 1844 in memory of the naturalist John Ray (1628 - 1705) "to print works illustrative of the Natural History of Great Britain." Jardine is also known as the editor of a popular and highly-successful series of illustrated books on natural history called The Naturalist's Library. Forty volumes were published between 1833 and 1843 and eagerly purchased by the Victorian reading public. The poet and artist Edward Lear was among the illustrators commissioned for this series. Jardine also edited a new edition of Gilbert White's *Natural History of Selbourne*, first published in 1789, thus re-establishing White's reputation.

Medico-Botanical Society of London. The original unpublished manuscript Minute Books from its commencement in 1821 to its conclusion in 1852.

General Meetings 1821-52, 6 vols;

Council Meetings, 1828-49, 3 vols.

Presented to the RSM in 1917 by Sir William Osler.





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