It is stated that Mr. Ruskin maintains a Cherry-orchard solely for the benefit of the birds on his estate. [5 (1891): 36]

Forty-six Japanese gardeners are now employed, it is said, in California, where it appears that the taste for Japanese fruit and ornamental trees has greatly increased. [2 (1889): 180]

The last English census enumerated about 5,000 women who are professional gardeners in that country, and six who are employed in superintending the drainage of towns. [7 (1894): 10]

The health officer of San Francisco recently examined eight samples of fruit jellies bought in the open market, and not one of them proved to be made of sound ripe fruit. Several apple jellies were colored, while one in tin contained turnip pulp, colored with aniline dye to represent strawberry jelly. [9 (1896): 290]

The latest atrocity in the way of “fashionable” floral arrangements is a muff composed of flowers, for the use of bridesmaids at weddings. People seem slow to learn that there is a right way and a wrong way to use natural flowers, and that all ways are wrong that force them to simulate the form of some article of dress or ornament. [2 (1889): 180]

It has been suggested that instead of the present plan of distribution of free seeds by the Government that the Department of Agriculture should issue legal-tender notes which Congressmen could distribute among their constituents, so that each one could purchase the particular kind of seeds or flowers or shrubs or trees he needed. Why not? [10 (1897): 190]

At this season, wherever any planting is done for beauty or for use, a little ground should be set apart for the children in every home. The possession and cultivation of a miniature garden will do much to cultivate habits of observation, turn the attention to the mysteries and beauties of plant-life and develop a taste which will be a fruitful source of pleasure in after life [7 (1894): 140]

A correspondent inquires how much land it would require to furnish strawberries enough to supply an average-sized family. We should say that such a family might have in an average year all the fresh berries needed during their season, besides a few for canning, if five or six rows of plants a hundred feet long were set out and cultivated with rather more than average care. [7 (1894): 330]

The people of California are to be congratulated upon Professor Hilgard’s decision to refuse the position of Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture, offered to him by the President, and to remain the Director of the California experiment station, where he can accomplish infinitely more than he could do in Washington, under the demoralizing political influences which beset the Department of Agriculture [2 (1889): 180]

A woman in Brooklyn who visited the grave of a deceased relative in Cypress Hills Cemetery, some months ago, alleges that she was poisoned by Rhus Toxicodendron [poison ivy] which had been allowed to grow in her lot. She has sued the cemetery association for $10,000 damages on account of the sufferings which she has since endured. This gives rise to some very interesting questions as to the responsibilities of corporations who control cemeteries. [8 (1895): 430] [In 1897 the plaintiff was awarded damages in the amount of $3,400.—Ed.]

A writer in the Southern Stockman says to test the ripeness of a Water Melon, the thumb-nail should be drawn over it so as to scrape off the thin green skin. If the edges of the skin on each side of the scar are left ragged and granulated, and the rind under the scar is smooth, firm, white and glossy, the melon is ripe. If the edges of the scar are smooth and even and the nail plows into the rind in places and the skin does not come off clean, then the melon is green. Two melons, one known to be ripe and the other green, should be taken and this test practiced on them until the difference is plainly observed. [5 (1892): 600]

The French Government has made Professor C. V. Riley a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor as a deserved compliment for his effective studies in economical entomology. His researches have not only been of advantage to the farmers and fruit-growers of the United States, but he discovered that the phylloxera was an American insect, and identical with the pest which had proved so disastrous to French vineyards. He also introduced into France the spraying-nozzle which bears his name, and which, with certain modifications, is used in that country to counteract the mildew of the vine. [2 (1889): 444]

At the late Chrysanthemum show in Philadelphia, Mr. W. K. Harris exhibited a plant upon which twenty distinct varieties had been grafted and all were in bloom at the same time. This suggests a new line of work, inasmuch as such plants would be objects of great popular interest at exhibitions, if a proper selection and arrangement of colors were made. It may be questioned, however, whether a plant bearing several different kinds of flowers possesses any value except as a curiosity. Whether some varieties of feeble growth would be improved if grafted on a more robust stock can be ascertained by experiment. [1 (1888): 480]

The early settlers of New Jersey were not slow to discover the peculiar value and uses of the cranberries...
which grow in the swampy sections of the Pines. Mahlon Stacy, writing from West Jersey in April, 1680, to his brother in Yorkshire, says that from “May till Michaelmas we have great store of very good wild fruit, as strawberies and hurrelbernes, which are like our bilberries in England, but far sweeter, and very wholesome,” and he adds: “the cranberries are much like cherries for color and bigness, and may be kept till fruit comes in again. An excellent sauce is made of them for venison, turkeys and other great fowl. They are better to make tarts than either gooseberries or cherries. We have them bought to our houses in great plenty by the Indians.” [7 [1894]: 430]

We are sorry to learn that Mr. C. M. Atkinson, one of the best all-round gardeners that America has seen, has been obliged, through physical infirmity, to retire from the charge, which he has held for nearly thirty years, of the gardens and estate of Mr. John L. Gardner, of Brookline, Massachusetts. This place has long been known to lovers of horticulture for its well-grown fruits and flowers, and especially for many of those old-fashioned hard wood greenhouse-plants which are so sadly neglected in most gardens of the present day, and which Mr. Atkinson grew to perfection. His skill, however, was not limited to any single field, and he was equally successful with Azaleas, Japanese Irises, Roses, Orchids, Violets, and all sorts of greenhouse and hardy plants. [8 [1895]:30]

Professor [L. H.] Bailey and Mr. Wilhelm Miller have issued another bulletin on the Chrysanthemum which contains much that is of interest to florists and flower lovers generally. Mr. Miller’s chapter entitled “Chrysanthemums at Home” is certainly worth publishing under the Nixon Act, and perhaps the horticultural knowledge which can be disseminated by investigations and publications of this character justify the use of the costly machinery of the experiment station in this particular direction. The question is whether it could not be used to better advantage elsewhere. But since the bulletin is published primarily for educational purposes, we must express our regret at the use of such a barbarism as “mum” for Chrysanthemum. A subject which is of sufficient importance to be discussed in a bulletin from a university ought to command the use of dignified and scholarly language. [10 [1897]: 270]

In an interesting article, called “Waste Products Made Useful,” published in the North American Review for November, Lord Playfair says: “As to perfumes, there are some which are really oils, and others extracted from flowers. There are others which are made artificially, and curiously, most frequently, out of bad-smelling compounds. The fusel-oil, separated out in the distillation of spirits, has a peculiarly nasty and sickening odor. It is used, after treatment with acids and oxidizing agents, to make the oil of apples and the oil of pears. Oil of grapes and oil of cognac are little more than fusel-oil largely diluted. Oil of pineapples, on the other hand, is best made by the action of putrid cheese on sugar, or by distilling rancid butter with alcohol and oil of vitriol. This oil is largely used for making pineapple ale. Many a fair forehead used to be damped with ‘Eau de Millefleurs’ without knowing that its essential ingredient was got from the drainings of cow-houses, though now it can be obtained cheaper from one of the constituents of gas-tar [5 [1891]: 540]

Christmas gifts supplied by florists this year consisted almost entirely of boxes of cut flowers, violets and roses being the favorites. Large, deep-colored Marie Louise violets, their long stems allowing of loose, graceful arrangement, sold for as much as five dollars a hundred. Roses cost from three dollars to eighteen dollars a dozen, an extra quality of American Beauty commanding the outside price of three dollars each. Lilacs at twenty-five cents to fifty cents a spray, tulips at one cent each, and stevia at fifty cents for a small bunch, were specialties of the holiday season. Carnations were plentiful and cheap; some well-cultivated specimens of William Scott, measuring two and a half inches across, brought the extreme price of two dollars a dozen. The Orchid season is now fairly begun, and cut blooms of Cattleya at nine dollars a dozen, and Cypripedium insignis at four dollars a dozen, were in good supply. Fruited plants of Ardisia crenulata and the Otaheite orange were in some demand, and specimen plants of Cyclamens and of Chinese Primroses in ornamental baskets found considerable favor. But the most beautiful and the most costly were luxuriantly flowered plants of Heath, their foliage almost hidden under the myriad of tiny bells, and a few extra early pink and white Azaleas. [8 [1895]: 10]

With the present issue, which completes the tenth volume, the publication of Garden and Forest ends. For ten years the experiment has been tried of publishing a weekly journal devoted to horticulture and forestry, absolutely free from all trade influences, and as good as it has been possible for us to make it. This experiment, which has cost a large amount of time and money has shown conclusively that there are not persons enough in the United States interested in the subjects which have been presented in the columns of Garden and Forest to make a journal of its class and character self-supporting. It is useless to expend more time and money on a publication which cannot be made financially successful, and must, therefore, sooner or later cease to exist.

Mr. J. H. Griffith, Room 106, Tribune Building, New York, is authorized to receive money due to the Company, and to attend to any other business matters which may arise in winding up its affairs.