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LAND OF THE FANNS

# Teacher Briefing

Havering Country Park

*From, Land of the Fanns Online Resource*

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## **Havering Country Park**

Pinewood Rd,  
Havering-atte-Bower,  
Romford  
RM4 1PH

[https://www.havering.gov.uk/info/20037/parks/723/havering\\_country\\_park](https://www.havering.gov.uk/info/20037/parks/723/havering_country_park)

## **Summary**

- 165 acres (67 hectares)
- Havering Country Park was part of the estate of the medieval Royal Palace of Havering. Lots of Kings and Queens stayed there.
- There are many specimen trees from the 19th century, including an impressive avenue of 100 Wellingtonia trees.
- In the 20th century much of the park had 'Plotlands' bungalows on it. These were demolished in the 1970s so that nature could be restored and Havering Country Park created.

## **History**

- There is evidence of Roman remains - coins found suggest the existence of a Roman villa.
- Havering Country Park was part of the estate of the medieval Royal Palace of Havering.
- After he successfully invaded Britain with his Norman army at the Battle of Hastings in 1066, William the Conqueror decided to keep the manor of Havering for himself.
- The palace received many royal visits over the years.
- Henry II's and Henry III's records frequently refer to building repairs and maintenance of the park, including the construction of a bath for the king in 1215.
- Henry II visited at least 20 times between 1222 and 1272. He made lots of improvements, including special glass windows fitted in the Queen's chamber in 1251, which was a luxury at the time.
- Edward III visited the manor more often than any other monarch.

- Richard II came to Havering Palace after the suppression of the 1381 Peasants Revolt.
- Henry IV and Henry VI also stayed there.
- Henry VIII was reported to have hunted and entertained French hostages in Havering. Contemporary records declared that ‘the King lying there, did shoot, hunt and run with the hostages to their great joy’.
- Catherine of Aragon, Anne Boleyn and Jane Seymour all held the manor of Havering while they were Henry VIII’s queens.
- Elizabeth I frequently stayed at Havering Palace with her Privy Councillors. In 1588, on the eve of the Spanish Armada, the Earl of Leicester advised her to ‘withdraw yourself to your house at Havering’.
- Charles I was the last monarch to stay at Havering, in 1638.
- During the Civil War the Palace was abandoned and fell into ruin. A survey of the King’s property in 1650 described Havering Palace as ‘a confused heap of ruinous decayed buildings whose materials of lead, glass, brick, tile, timber and stone [were] valued at £480, this did not include the cost of salvaging them’.  
In 1764 only one part of the Palace walls remained, and by 1816 there was no trace of where it had stood.
- In 1828 the McIntosh family bought the manor from the Crown and built a new grand house on the site of the old Palace.
- They also made a park, gardens and pleasure grounds.
- Leading up to the house was an avenue of Wellingtonia trees, which is still there and is the second largest plantation in the country. These trees, also known as Giant Sequoia, were very fashionable in the 19th century. They had only recently been discovered during the Californian Gold Rush of 1850, and were named in honour of the Duke of Wellington.
- In June 1909 an article in ‘The Gardeners Chronicle’ magazine described Havering Park. It described not only the 400 acre park but the gardens and large pleasure grounds where there was a wide variety of plants; ‘a striking novelty, especially for this part of Essex is a large portion set apart for the cultivation of the hardy Ericas’. The article makes special mention of the four vineries, extensive fruit garden, and numerous glass houses for plants including roses, carnations, ferns and rhododendrons. There was also a large conservatory against the house ‘in the centre

of which was a very fine plant of *Kentia Bemoreana*, fully 30 feet high, and many other fine Palms’.

- After Charlotte McIntosh died in 1923, the mansion fell into disrepair and was demolished in 1925.
- However, the majority of the trees planted by the family remain in Havering Park today, particularly close to the site of the former house. A length of high red brick boundary wall from the former walled garden also survives, as do traces of a stone platform or viewing terrace overlooking the view to the east from the west of the present church hall in Havering-atte-Bower.
- The estate was split up, and part of it was sold in small one-acre portions for about £30. These became known as ‘Plotlands’ and ran along Wellingtonia Avenue and Pinewood Road.
- Many of the plots were bought by East Enders as a welcome holiday home from life in London. They visited at weekends, at first staying in tents and then building bungalows. Some moved in permanently. The Plotlands were very popular.
- Two of the bungalows still exist, and one is used as the Park Office.
- In 1970 the Greater London Council organised a Compulsory Purchase Order to clear the Plotlands for a public park and restore the area to nature. Havering Country Park was opened in 1976.

## **Landscape & Habitat**

- Open grassland
- Dense woodland
- Meadow

## **Plants & Trees**

- Specimen trees, particularly close to the site of the demolished house.
- The 19th century Wellingtonia avenue, which used to lead up to the house. Havering Park has the second largest plantation of Wellingtonia in England, totalling 100 trees.

## What you might see

- Ornamental trees planted in the 19th century
- The 20th century 'Plotlands' bungalow that is now used as the Park Office.
- The avenue of Wellingtonia trees which originally led up to the house, now demolished.
- A length of high red brick boundary wall from the former walled garden.
- Traces of a stone platform or viewing terrace overlooking the view to the east (located to the west of the present church hall in Havering-atte-Bower).

## Reading

- <https://londongardenstrust.org/conservation/inventory/site-record/?ID=HVG021>
- The Gardeners Chronicle, June 26th 1909, p408



of Professor Daniel Oliver. After the first few years, a consultative committee used to meet every few weeks or months, consisting of Sir Joseph Hooker, Prof. D. Oliver, Mr. John Ball, the alpinist, and latterly Mr. W. B.

geographical distribution, so that by the autumn of 1891, after preliminaries, the work began to be printed by the delegates of the Clarendon Press, at Oxford. In round numbers 65,000 sheets were sent to press.

with the help of one to seven assistants, as the work needed it. The cost of compilation was wholly borne by the family of Mr. Darwin, and it was ever a matter of regret on my part that his life ended before any progress had been made on the last work originated by him, with the object of helping others in a field in which he had himself sometimes vainly sought for information.

I have endeavoured in the limits of a brief article to give a rapid and discursive account of an undertaking which at the time though hard and exhausting and apparently unending, can now be looked back upon, with all its imperfections, as a piece of work in the service of the botanic world on which I gladly spent the best years of my life. *B. Daydon Jackson.*

ORCHID NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

EULOPHIELLA ELISABETHÆ.

THE illustration (see fig. 178) of this beautiful Orchid is from a photograph sent by Mr. John Easter, gardener to Lady St. Oswald, Nostell Priory, Wakefield. Mr. Easter writes: "The plant has been grown from a single pseudo-bulb which was purchased some years ago. It has been grown in company with *Phalenopsis*, and has flowered regularly every season." It is pleasing to hear it thus well spoken of as a cultivated plant, for there are few who could give it such a good character. Since it was first imported in quantity from Madagascar in 1893 by Messrs. Sander and Sons, it has generally proved to be unmanageable for any great length of time, although occasionally a thriving plant of it is recorded. Nevertheless, it is clear that *Eulophiella Elisabethæ* may be grown satisfactorily, provided it receives proper conditions and treatment. It always does best in a warm, moist house having a uniform temperature throughout the year. In Mr. J. Gurney Fowler's collection a plant of this species has occupied the same sheltered corner for many years, and it continues to increase in vigour. The collector's original account of its habitat in Madagascar showed that it grows up the stems of trees, most frequently on tree Ferns. A healthy specimen in cultivation is an ornamental plant, even when not in flower, and when in bloom it is one of the most beautiful Orchids of its section, being totally distinct from any other. The large plicate green leaves are very graceful. The stout flower-scapes, which are tinged with purple, are sometimes 2 feet in length. The flowers last a considerable time in perfection. The segments are thick in texture and pure white, the reverse side of the sepals being tinged with purple, while the callus on the hinged labellum is yellow. A plant was first shown by Sir Trevor Lawrence, Bart., K.C.V.O., at the meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society on April 10, 1894, when a First-class Certificate was awarded it.

CATLEYA MOSSIÆ "THE KING-EMPEROR."

A FLOWER of great size, fine shape, and very bright colour is sent us by Francis Wellesley, Esq., Westfield, Woking (gr. Mr. Hopkins), under the above name. It is a noble flower of the typical *C. Mossiæ* class. The petals measure 8 inches from tip to tip, and they are 2½ inches wide, both sepals and petals being of a warm rosy-mauve colour. The lip is large, and in a great degree it resembles that of *Cattleya Warscewiczii*, the front lobe being elongated and finely crimped. The base has yellow lines on a red ground; the front is mottled with violet-crimson and margined with lavender colour.

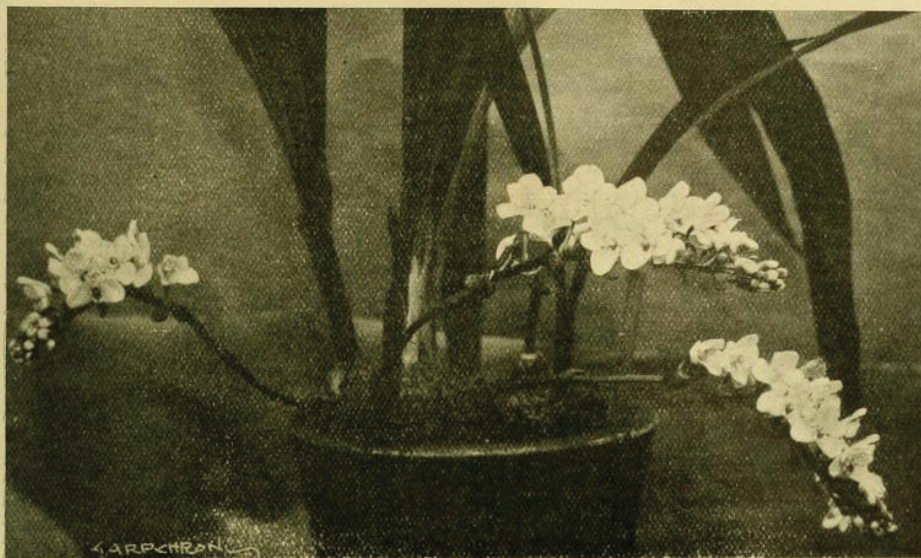


FIG. 178.—EULOPHIELLA ELISABETHÆ: FLOWERS WHITE, TINGED WITH PURPLE.

Hemsley, when difficulties were discussed and progress noted.

Comparatively early in the compilation it became evident that the departure from the plan of Steudel's *Nomenclator* was so great that the new work was simply an *Index*, for in addition to its register of references there was no attempt to transfer species from included genera, but only to enumerate those names which botanical writers had already ranged under the retained genera.

The revision, naturally, could not be critical; the amount of work to be got through did not permit of pausing for long over any one species. Time was running on, and the estimated period of compilation had extended from six years to ultimately nine and a half

From that date the routine was proof-reading in the forenoon, with collation of Sir Joseph Hooker's corrections from his proof sheet, and in the afternoon revising manuscript in advance. Two sheets weekly were passed through all their stages until, in 1893, the first fasciculus was issued, extending from *Aa* to part of *Dendrobium*. This partition, which called forth some criticism, was solely the work of the printers without consultation; besides dividing a genus, it made the next fasciculus unduly small. The proper division would have been that page 632 should have closed the part, as it came exactly midway in the volume and ended with *Cranichis*, page 633 beginning with *Cranioalaria* and a new signature.

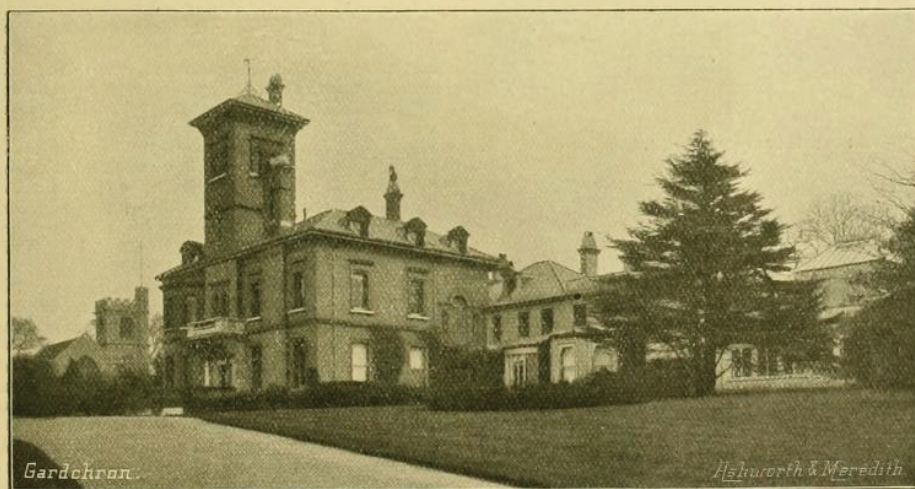


FIG. 179.—HAVERING PARK, THE RESIDENCE OF MRS. CHARLOTTE MCINTOSH. (See p. 408.)

years. Mr. Ball gave certain notes he had made out, Mr. C. B. Clarke read through all the Cyperaceæ, Sir Joseph Hooker read through the manuscript and revised it for

The work was completed in 1895, and with the issue of the fourth fasciculus ended the period of 13 years and five months, the greater part of my time being devoted to it,



## HAVERING PARK.

THE delightful residence of Mrs. Charlotte McIntosh is situated on a high elevation in one of the prettiest parts of Essex, at a distance of about three miles from Romford station. It commands extensive views to the south across the Thames on to Shooters Hill, and on the north to Epping Forest. The picturesque country church of Havering, which has a peal of six bells, is situated within a few minutes of the mansion. Havering Park is famous for its fine herd of Jersey cattle, of which Mrs. McIntosh is a successful exhibitor. The park consists of about 400 acres, is splendidly timbered and beautifully undulated. The principal trees include Oak, Elm, Chestnut, Beech, Scotch Firs, and Cedars. Extensive plantations have been made during the past 50 years, both for effect, shelter and game preserve.

The gardens, and particularly the pleasure grounds, are large, but much work is still in progress for extending and improving them. A magnificent avenue of *Sequoia gigantea*, about half a mile in length, which was planted about 50 years since, is a very striking and beautiful feature, many of the trees being extremely handsome specimens (see fig. 181).

Rhododendrons succeed remarkably well. Large

*luna vulgaris*, *Alportii*, *Ericas mediterranea*, *hybrida*, *vagans* and its variety *alba*, *vulgaris pilosa*, *mediterranea nana*, *vulgaris Serleii*, *cinerea rosea*, *cinerea alba*, and *carnea*. I may here mention that, although the surrounding land consists of a stiff clay, this particular part consists chiefly of sand and gravel.

Rock plants in large numbers find homes here in suitable positions. In the flower garden spring bedding is made a feature, and the plants were little the worse for the severe frosts experienced. The plants employed consist chiefly of Wall-flowers of sorts, *Polyanthus*, *Aubrietias*, *Arabis*, *Pansies*, *Myosotis*, and large quantities of bulbs.

Many of the fruit houses have been replanted during the past three or four years. There are four good-sized vineries, the early house being planted with Black Hamburgh, which was started early in the new year. The second and third houses were devoted entirely to Muscat of Alexandria. The latest house contains Black Alicante and Gros Colmar. All the borders had been renovated by the gardener, Mr. J. A. Cox, who has had charge of these gardens for the past three years. He has made great improvements generally, and especially in the fruit garden.

A large centre house in the same range con-

drons; especially fine were Countess of Haddington, Lady Fitzwilliam, R. Fosterianum and Princess Royal.

A Peach case, 160 feet in length, contained trees in a most promising condition. Other smaller houses were devoted to Cucumbers, Melons, Tomatos, French Beans and similar crops. A number of pits and frames were well filled with a good assortment of plants.

A long north house is found to be exceedingly useful for retarded plants, during the summer months especially. A large conservatory adjoins the house, in the centre of which was a very fine plant of *Kentia Belmoreana*, fully 30 feet high, and many other fine Palms.

The kitchen garden is not an extensive one, but a large portion of ground for vegetable culture is situated on another part of the estate. A particularly good lot of cordon Pears were to be seen here. Mrs. McIntosh takes a keen interest in all appertaining to the garden, and her wishes are well carried out by her gardener. B.

## GROWERS AND THE BUDGET.

THE proposals for the taxation of land, as contemplated by the Budget now before Parliament, cannot fail to interest the horticulturist, and as the matter is somewhat complicated, a short explanation of the clauses which touch specially on this point may possibly be of use, although any discussion of either a political or a technical nature would be out of place in these columns.

From the horticultural point of view the three most important branches of the Finance Bill now before Parliament are those which seek to impose further taxation on land by means of (a) a tax on unearned increment; (b) a tax on undeveloped land, including (c) a tax on gardens exceeding one acre in extent, all of which are quite distinct in their effect and must be separately considered.

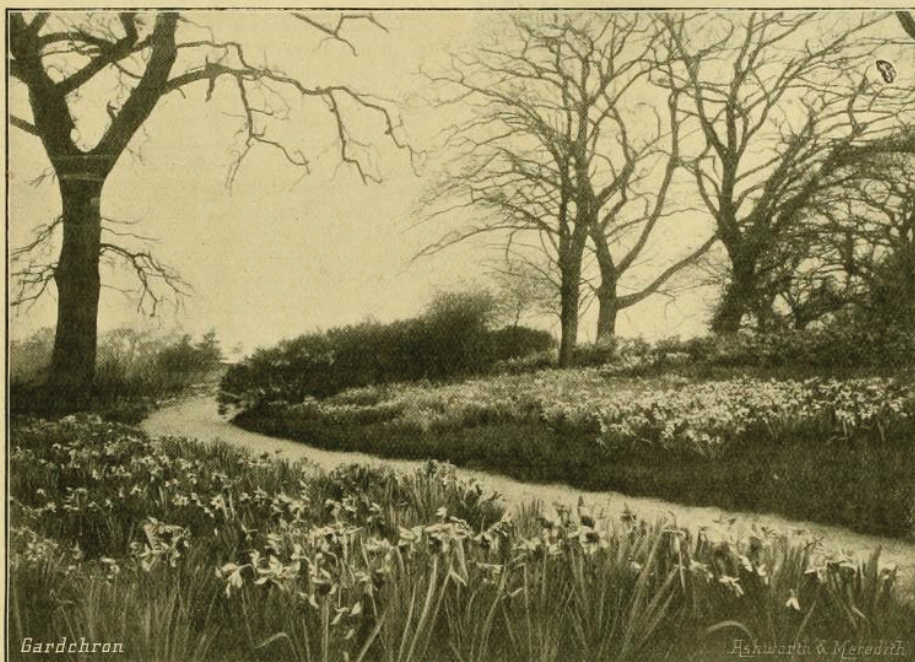
## INCREMENT TAX.

It is proposed in the first place to levy a duty of 20 per cent. on all capital profit accruing to any person having an interest in land (i.e., either freehold or on lease for seven years or more), by reason of any increase in the value of such land. The occasions on which the tax is to be levied are as follows: (a) when such person sells his interest or grants a new lease for a term of seven years or more; (b) when such person dies (this being in addition to the increased death duties); and (c) in the case of a limited company (which of course cannot die) this tax is to be levied every 15 years, the first payment to be made in 1914.

In assessing the value of the land for this tax the value of all "permanent works" is to be deducted if used for any trade, business or industry *except horticulture and agriculture*. The latter industries do not escape, although the cost of removing their buildings, trees and bushes may be considered. (See clause 14, section 4, which must not be confused with clause 2.) Though it is true that any value due solely to the special capacity of the soil for agricultural purposes is not to be taken into account; yet the fact remains that "permanent works" for nurseries are hit although those for factories or shops are not.

It is submitted that nurserymen might well be exempted from this tax. They already have to pay very high rents as tenants, and it is as much necessary for a nurseryman to have at least one branch of his business within the precincts of a town as it is for the vendor of any other retail article to have a shop in a populous district. Consequently the rent which a horticulturist has to pay is not only much higher than that which falls upon the agriculturist, but, owing to the extent of premises required, the rent is also much larger in proportion to the amount of the turnover than that which is paid by most other tradesmen.

In the case of a nurseryman who has bought the freehold of his land the tax might bear even more hardly. For the reasons stated above, he has to pay a heavy price (often as great as if he proposed to cover the area with bricks and mortar) in order to obtain a suitable site upon which to carry on his business, and the interest on the capital thus sunk constitutes a heavy



[Photograph by Mrs. Deives Broughton.

FIG. 180.—VIEW IN THE BULB GARDEN AT HAVERING PARK.

beds and borders containing many very fine specimens and varieties have been established on the south side of the house. They contain beside Rhododendrons, *Kalmias*, *Azaleas*, and a magnificent show of *Pieris floribunda*. The principal part of the planting operations was carried out about 40 years ago. As before stated, large additions are still being made, and Mrs. McIntosh is wisely grouping together large beds of many of the most beautiful shrubs, both for summer and winter effects. They include Brooms, *Rhododendron sinense*, *Sea Buckthorn* (*Hippophae rhamnoides*), large quantities of the *Wichuraiana* Roses, *Spiræas canescens* and *Douglasii*, *Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora*, *Cornus* of sorts, *Rhus typhina*, *Poplars* in bush form, *Pernettyas*, *Rubus odoratus*, large beds of *Lavender*, *Veronica Traversii*, and *Mahonias*.

A striking novelty, especially for this part of Essex, is a large portion set apart for the cultivation of the hardy *Ericas*. These are grouped together in masses, and particularly well they looked, all being in the best possible condition. Among the varieties I noticed were Cal-

tained fine specimen Palms, and many other both flowering and foliage plants, all in good condition. Adjoining this is a small stove, used principally for growing decorative plants for house decoration. The early Peach house had been entirely replanted, and the trees were in excellent condition. The varieties I noticed were:—Nectarines: *Cardinal*, *Early Rivers* and *Lord Napier*; and Peaches: *Royal George*, *Gros Mignon* and *Hale's Early*.

One small house was principally devoted to Rose culture, and another house to Carnations. Fine batches of the following varieties of Carnations are cultivated:—*Mercia*, *Mrs. Martin Smith*, *Lady Grimston*, *Maggie Hodgson*, *Princess of Wales*, *Old Blush* and *Horace Hutchinson*. Most of the plants were in 8 and 10-inch pots. A large span-roofed house was devoted entirely to Ferns, and some were specimens growing in tubs over 5 feet in diameter. Particularly fine were *Davallia Mooreana*, *Microlepia hirta cristata*, *Davallia elegans*, *Adiantum formosum*, *A. cuneatum* and *A. Williamsii*. Another large greenhouse contained some greenhouse Rhododen-



addition to his annual cost of trading, quite apart from the working capital required. Frequently, also, he has to raise part of the purchase price by means of a mortgage, and if the Budget proposals should cause the value of land to fall, most mortgagees will either call in their loan or require the amount already advanced to be very substantially reduced. The exemption of permanent works for horticulture from this tax should be urged.

Nurserymen have sometimes been able, on removal, to recoup a portion of the heavy expenditure referred to above by selling their nursery land at a higher price than they originally gave for it. With the profit thus obtained they are able to meet to some extent the

UNDEVELOPED LAND TAX.

In addition to the above, it is also proposed to levy every year a further tax, at a present rate of one halfpenny in the pound, on the "capital value of undeveloped land." "Undeveloped land" means, for the purposes of the Budget, any land which: (a) has not been developed by being built upon, or (b) has not been developed by being used bona fide for any business, trade or industry, with one single exception—agriculture (which term for the purposes of this Act includes nurseries, market gardens, and allotments). Nurserymen therefore will have to pay the tax although other tradesmen will not. The Bill, however, extends to the horticulturist and agriculturist two slight concessions, namely:—

house, a depository, a slaughter house, or for the erection of factories, or for building speculation.

This proposed tax, if applied to nurseries and market gardens, will bear especially heavily upon small growers who cater solely for the English market. It is essential for them to be in or near the outskirts of a town, not only so as to be near their local customers but also so as to be within the "collection and delivery" area of a railway station.

Parliament has already recognised the difficulties which await a grower who is forced to remove. The Agricultural Holdings Act, which came into force on January 1 last provides that "if a landlord without good and sufficient cause and for reasons inconsistent with good estate management" gives notice to quit or refuses to grant his tenant a new lease, either at all or except at an increased rent, then the landlord must repay to the tenant the whole of the cost of removing or selling his household goods, his implements of husbandry, his produce and his farm stock. It is hoped the Government will bear this point of view in mind.

GARDEN TAX.

By this time most readers will probably be aware that it is also proposed to impose the "undeveloped land tax" on the owner of every garden which exceeds one acre in extent. It is impossible to discuss the pros and cons of this tax here, but if it is to be adopted it is submitted that the Government might possibly see its way to make some concession on this point.

The question of "increment" taxation is one which will probably be decided on general principles, but the neglect to treat nurseries as equivalent to shops for this purpose and the question of the "undeveloped land" tax, including the "garden" tax, are matters in which the position of horticulturists might well be brought to the notice of the Government.  
H. M. V.

FLORISTS' FLOWERS.

GLOXINIAS.

In recent years Gloxinias have shown wonderful development in regard to colour and habit. The flowers range from pure white, pink and pale blue to deep reds, purples and blues, while the newer French spotted hybrids, though less robust in habit and more delicate in flower than the older type, are a most valuable addition. They are marked and spotted with colours varying from pink and mauve to dark blue, red, and even chocolate.

The cultivation of Gloxinias is not, perhaps, simple, but any gardener, provided he has a warm glasshouse at his disposal, by selecting seed of a good strain, and by following the few hints given below, should be able to produce a brilliant display of blooms within about seven months of the date of sowing the seed. The seed is best sown in mid-winter, in deep, well-drained pans of fine peat and sand. The pans should be placed in a propagating frame having a temperature of about 75°, covering the surface of the soil with a piece of glass until germination has taken place. The glass must be turned and dried night and morning, as Gloxinias at all stages are liable to suffer from damp. As soon as the first seed-leaves develop the plants should be pricked off into shallow pans. This is best done by means of small tweezers, as the seedlings are too small to be handled. When established they may be removed from the frame into a fairly moist atmosphere of 65° to 70°, and when large enough transplanted into boxes and ultimately potted off into small pots, using peat, sand and leaf-soil, as fibrous and rough as possible.

Careful watering is one of the most important points during the stages of growth. The water should be slightly warmer than the temperature of the house, and never applied unless really necessary. The atmosphere must be kept moist by frequent damping, and the plants lightly syringed morning and evening.

In the final potting into 6-inch pots a good mixture of equal parts of peat, leaf-soil, yellow loam and sand should be used, with a little charcoal and good manure added. The soil, when mixed, should be warmed to the temperature of the house before potting. When potted, the plants may be grown on in a night temperature



FIG. 181.—AVENUE OF SEQUOIA GIGANTEA AT HAVERING PARK.  
(See p. 408.)

expenses which fall upon a nurseryman in building greenhouses on the fresh site, and in rendering the new soil suitable for the special purposes required by horticulture. It certainly seems hard on the horticulturist to demand under these circumstances one-fifth of any increase on the original site value—that is to say, £20 out of every £100 profit realised. In the case of a limited company the land has to be revalued every 15 years, and this 20 per cent. increment tax will have to be paid upon any increase in value which has accrued in the meantime.

(1) The tax is not to be imposed on any land which does not exceed a selling value of £50 an acre, and (2) in assessing the value of the land no special charge is to be made in respect of whatever special value it may bear for agricultural or horticultural purposes.

This will protect agricultural land to some extent, but some further protection for nurserymen appears to be urgently necessary. The value of the land for any other purposes must be taken into account, even on the assumption, for instance, that it might be required for some other trade, such as a shop, a brickfield, a ware-