

white eggs of that species, an abnormality not often met with. An examination of these eggs under the microscope showed that in regard to the texture of grain of the shell they agreed with eggs of the Hedge-Sparrow, and not with those of the Robin, of which white varieties are not so rare.

The following papers were read :—

1. "On some North-American Desmidiæ." By William West, F.L.S., and G. S. West.
2. "On the Structure of the Isopod Genus *Ourozeuktes*." By A. Vaughan Jennings, F.L.S.
3. "A Revision of the Genus *Silene*." By F. Newton Williams, F.L.S.
4. "The Egg-Cases of Port Jackson Sharks." By E. R. Waite, F.L.S.

APPENDIX.

A Memoir of GEORG DIONYSIUS EHRET*.

Born at Heidelberg, 30 Jan. 1708. Died in London, 9 Sept. 1770.

[Written by himself, and translated, with notes,
by E. S. Barton.]

My dear parents were Ferdinand Christoph and Anna Maria Ehret, both natives of Heidelberg, who supported themselves with difficulty by their own garden. On account of the early death of my father, I was taken from school early and sent as a gardener's apprentice to my father's brother at Bessungen, near Darmstadt, where I had to do the most ignominious work during my three years of apprenticeship. The instruction in the art of drawing which I had received from my father (who was a good draughtsman) I did not give up, notwithstanding the slavery during my apprenticeship, and employed all my spare hours in perfecting myself in sketches. As I gradually improved in this art, my cousin employed me at the end of my apprenticeship to draw sketches for him in his room.

For some time I remained as journeyman gardener with my cousin, and then returned to Heidelberg, remaining there more than a year with my mother, who during my apprenticeship had married Herr Anton Godfried Kesselbach. He had the two gardens of the Elector of Heidelberg in his charge, one of which he placed under the care of myself and my brother. He was a Catholic, but he made no objection whatever to our religion.

About this time I was recommended by my cousin to Herr Joachim Sievert, gardener to the Margrave at Carlsruhe.

* For some of his correspondence, see Proc. Linn. Soc. 1883-86, pp. 42-56.

I was the first and only journeyman gardener, and remained there two years.

During my time the garden improved greatly, from the botanical point of view, under the direction of that excellent man, my good friend Dr. Eichbrodt. About this time there came Herr August Wilhelm Sievert with his travelling companion Herr Christian Thran, who, as I believe, still lives at Carlsruhe.

As this Sievert painted very beautifully in water-colours, which I had striven to do from my youth, I did all in my power to profit by this opportunity; but he never gave me any special instruction in this art, only employing me to grind the colours. In my leisure hours I sometimes tried to paint, and executed some tulips for the Margrave, who at that time had the greatest desire to have paintings of all his hyacinths, &c., and had appointed different painters for the purpose.

As I was very young and was thought more of by the Margrave than any of the other gardeners, on account of my enthusiasm and industry in painting, there arose sometimes disputes, which at last I could bear no longer; so after two years' service I tendered my resignation, to try my fortune further afield.

Before I departed, my gracious prince expressed a desire to speak with me, and as he held a day of audience, I went on the appointed day, according to his desire, into the ante-room of his audience-chamber. The room was full of all kinds of people, and I expected to have waited a long time; but my gracious master sent his chamberlain and summoned me the first of all to his presence, for he knew that I was about to leave Carlsruhe. I was some time with him, and there was nothing but complaints about his gardeners, that he could depend on none of them; he was sorry I was going away, but, on account of my youth, he could not refuse me permission to try my fortune further in the world; and he offered me his assistance if I should wish to return, saying he would provide for me at any time. Soon after this I began my journey with my elder brother who had come later to my cousins at Bessungen as apprentice, and whose term of apprenticeship had expired.

We started for Vienna, and went first to Würtemberg to see their ways of gardening; from thence to Ulm on the Danube; but on the way to Vienna we were obliged, for want of money, to work at the oars.

I had a letter of recommendation from Herr August Wilhelm Sievert to the celebrated Herr Detlef Simpson, gardener at Regensburg, asking him to help us; and Herr Simpson kept me there as I had learnt so little painting, in order, as he intended, to introduce me to Herr [Apotheke] Weinmann and Herr [Banquier] Leskenkohl.

My brother proceeded, at the first opportunity, to Vienna on the Danube.

I engaged myself for a mere nothing for one year, a nominal pay of 50 K[roner], to Herr Weinmann; and in that time, so

far as I can remember, I executed for him nearly 500 paintings principally from nature, and also several paintings for Herr Leskenkohl.

[Herr Weinmann was collecting paintings for his 'Phytanthozaiconographia,' which was afterwards published.]

When the time came to demand my yearly salary, Herr Weinmann retained some of my money (I received 20 K., but he would not pay me the remaining 30 K.); and gave as his reason that I had not entirely completed his work, as I had promised to do in a year. [The work was to consist of 1000 plates.]

Thereupon I left him, and Herr Leskenkohl received me to paint his plants, with a salary of 100 Reichsthaler; and I remained for the next five years at Regensburg, and completed three volumes of the 'Hortus Malabaricus.'

Now, though I had been so cast down through my first falling out with Herr Weinmann, I thought less of it, and forgave the loss of my money, since I had profited much by him in botany, which perhaps might serve me in the future. I began to make a better collection of plants than Herr Weinmann, and turned my attention in my leisure hours to botany and painting. In order to cut myself off entirely from gardening, I completed in the five years a considerable collection of plants [560 paintings] growing round Regensburg, among them being many exotic ones.

This collection was made known through the late Herr Beurer, a new acquaintance of mine who was beginning his studies [as an apothecary] towards the end of my stay in Regensburg. He admired my collection, and asked if I would not sell it, as he could perhaps find me a patron, and asked what I wished to obtain for it. I made up my mind at last and sold the collection (how many hundreds there were of them I have quite forgotten) to Herr Dr. Wiedmann of Nuremberg. [Dr. Trew says that this collection was first offered to him through Herr Beurer; but although he recognized the excellence of the work, he declined to buy the drawings, as they were mostly of native and common plants, and were painted on ordinary small writing-paper. Dr. Trew found Ehret a purchaser in the person of Dr. Wiedmann, and at the same time requested Ehret to paint for him as many plants as he could on large fine paper. Ehret sent him 80 plates from Regensburg in 1732.]

Through this, my first transaction of the kind, I had at the same time the honour of making the acquaintance of the learned Dr. Trew, in order to paint plants for him, and I continue to do so, through God's help, up to the time of writing these lines, May 15, 1758.

During the end of my stay in Regensburg I took a journey to the University of Altorf to see the Botanic Garden. Herr Beuer [Baier?] was then botanical professor, and I went into the garden to hear him lecture on the plants. Now, he had a large audience, and no one spoke a word; but I interrupted him in the lecture (which was not allowed, though I did not know it), and asked him

different questions about the plants. He gave a pleasant answer to all my questions. After the lecture he took me himself all round the garden, showed me all, and invited me to remain with him sometime if I would paint for him. But my connexion with Dr. Trew, mentioned above, gave me enough to do.

As my intention was to see [Dr. Trew] personally, I went from there to Nuremburg. However, as I had leave for only one month from Herr Leskenkohl, I remained only a few days in Nuremburg and painted some plants—the *Cortusa*, *Radix*, *Spadia*, &c. Through this personal acquaintance with the venerable Dr. Trew, I went more deeply than ever into botany and painting. [Dr. Trew showed Ehret which parts of the flower and fruit should be clearly represented to show the different sexes.]

Soon after this I tramped back to Regensburg, and remained there some time with Herr Leskenkohl, who was most eager to possess the whole of the 'Hortus Malabaricus,' of which the first three volumes were ready. As more than six years were necessary to complete the other volumes, it seemed to me too long, especially as my best years would be lost in copying.

So I went with but little money to Switzerland, over the Lake of Constance, to Basle, to see everything in the Botanic Garden, intending to continue painting plants for the venerable Dr. Trew, which I did.

However, it happened that I made the acquaintance of Herr Samuel Burckhardt, who was then desirous of laying out an entirely new garden on his estate, and he engaged me in order to make first a plan of it, which was soon done; he took me into his service, and I remained with him for a year.

It happened that during this time the war between the Emperor and the French began. The French crossed the Rhine at Hunningen, a fortress near Basle, and entered the territory of the Margrave of Baden. Thus my gracious master, the Margrave Carl, was obliged to retire; and having a residence at Basle, he came hither, which rejoiced me very much. As soon as he came to Basle, Herr S. Burckhardt (who had the title of Hofrath) went to wait on him. He told the Margrave that he was laying out an entirely new garden; the Margrave asked him what sort of gardener he had; he replied, "One of the name of Ehret, who about six years ago served as gardener to your Highness at Carlsruhe." The Margrave was not a little pleased, and replied that since I had left Carlsruhe he had not had any man on whom he could rely; and thus they conversed for some time.

As soon as Herr Burckhardt left him, he came back at once to me, and related this and all that he had heard of me from the Margrave, and asked why I had not told him all that myself. I replied that I preferred that it should have happened as it had done; and then he told me that the next morning the Margrave himself was coming to see and speak with him, which also took place. He [the Margrave] told me all that had

happened in his garden at Carlsruhe since I had left him, and for the second time invited me to enter his service. But as I wished to see more of the world (which he could not gainsay me), my plan was to go to France and Holland. Shortly after that I went away, notwithstanding the war between France and Germany; I had no fear, since Herr Burckhardt had obtained for me a passport from the Governor of Strassburg. From the Margrave I received a letter of recommendation to Herr Clifford in Holland, and from the excellent Dr. Eichrodt a similar letter to Herr Bernhard de Jussieu at Paris. My testimonial from Herr Burckhardt, which I still have, runs thus:—"Herr Georg Dennis Ehret, of Heidelberg, has been with me for some time as an experienced artistic gardener, and during that time has laid out a garden in a new way; he is also learned both in flowers and plant peculiarities, and also in designing and drawing; and has rendered to me in this way faithful service, to which end I earnestly recommend him to all amateurs. Witness my hand hereby, Basle, 27 May, 1734. S. BURCKHARDT."

Before I go further, I must here add that, for the comfort of my journey to France, I left my letters of apprenticeship and recommendation in the hands of Herr Burckhardt, who, I believe, still has them. For this reason I have been unable to put any certain date in my writings hitherto, as to when my years of apprenticeship began, &c.

The recommendation of the Margrave to Herr Clifford, of which I have the copy written by a Secretary, runs thus:—

"As regards the required recommendation from His Serene Highness to Herr Clifford, Herr Ehret will find the same in the accompanying envelope. His Serene Highness has signed a letter saying that before Herr Ehret starts for France he must provide himself with a sufficient passport, otherwise ill might befall him, and he might possibly be threatened, even like the Germans already confined there, with the Bastille. Wishing you well,

I remain always, Sir,

Your very humble servant,

"Basle, 25 May, 1734."

ERHARD."

"SIR,

"The bearer of this, G. D. Ehret, has been a gardener here, and 7 years ago worked in my garden. He desires now to visit the celebrated gardens of France and Holland, and has asked me to recommend him in a letter to Herr Clifford, especially as it is within my knowledge that since he has been in Germany he has acquired a good knowledge not only of his own business, but has also so perfected himself in the drawing and painting of flowers and herbs, that he is in a position to lay out a new garden, as he has indeed given a good proof here in Basle; and that he has at all times led a most upright life.

"I have for these reasons acceded to Ehret's most reasonable

request, and recommend him herewith earnestly to Herr Clifford to give him such assistance as he needs. I shall never fail to reciprocate this kindness with like services. CARL."

Besides this, I received a letter of recommendation from the private physician of the Margrave, Dr. Eichrodt, to Prof. Bernhard de Jussieu in Paris. I am sorry that I took no copy of that, for it was admirably written.

Soon afterwards Herr Burckhardt procured me a French passport from the Governor of Strassburg:—

"LÉONOR DU MAYNE, Comte du Bourg, Maréchal de France, Commandeur des Ordres du Roy, Gouverneur-Général des Provinces de Haute et Basse Alsace, et Gouverneur Particulier de la Ville et du Château de Belfort.

"Il est ordonné à tous ceux qui sont dans l'étendue de notre gouvernement, & nous prions tous autres, de laisser sûrement & librement passer le nommé George Ehret, Jardinier venant de Basle pour aller en France, s'y perfectionner dans sa profession, après quoy il retournera au dit Basle chez le S. Burckhardt, son maître, sans luy donner aucun trouble ny empêchement, au contraire toute sorte d'aide & assistance en cas de besoin. Le présent bon pour son séjour en France seulement. Fait à Strasbourg le douze mai mil sept cent trente quatre.

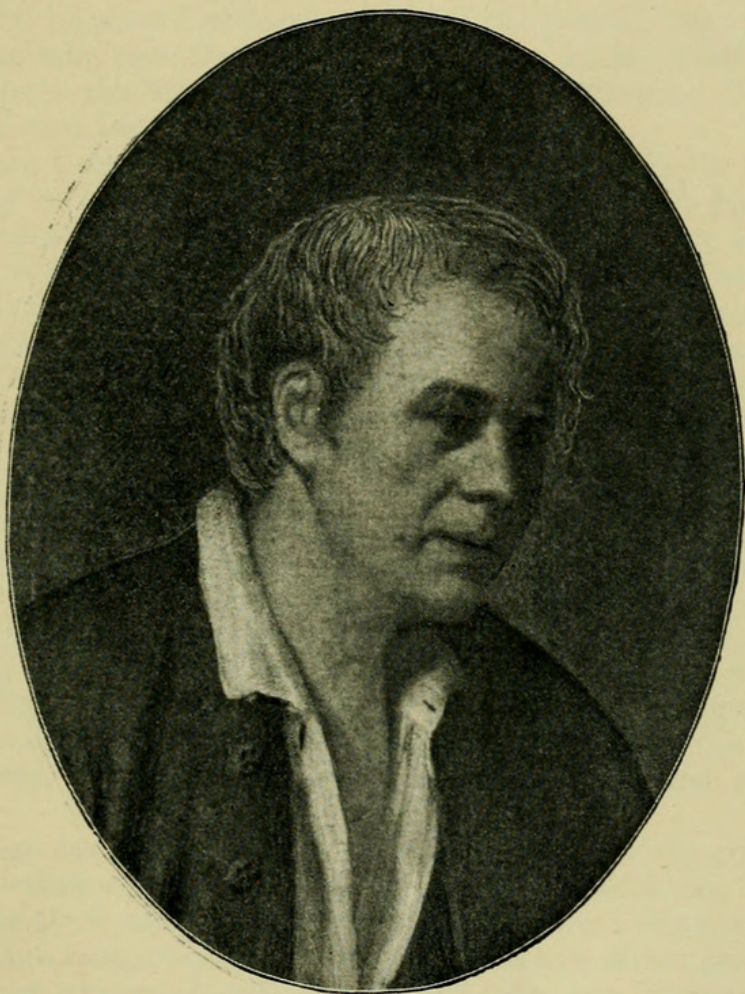


Par Monseigneur."

[From Basle Dr. Trew only received twelve paintings from Ehret, since his time was fully occupied in laying out the new garden.]

Thereupon I departed (having 12 louis d'or in my pocket) to Berne, lodged at the 'Falcon,' the largest inn, for a month, and began again to paint. Now as mine host, named Frederick, was a great lover and connoisseur of painting, I spent some days in painting a piece for him; and I was thus kept by him all the time I was there free of charge; and he gave me also a present of a piece of gold worth 1½ louis d'or.

I left Berne and went to Lausanne and Geneva (at that time there was a dispute between the magistrate and the burghers; and they all collected in large numbers in the street); from thence on the Rhone to Lyons. As there was no one on the boat but a French lady from Lyons with her servants, I was sometimes questioned by her as to my trade, whence I came, whether I was afraid of travelling to France in this time of war, whether I had a passport, and the like. At last I was obliged to show her my passport and also my letter of recommendation from Dr. Eichrodt, which surprised her exceedingly. She said to me, "When you come to Paris you will become acquainted with M. du Fay,



GEORG DIONYSIUS EHRET.

Governor of the Royal Herb-Garden, who is a near relation of mine." I have forgotten this lady's name.

Through this letter of recommendation I was again sent free of charge by this lady from Geneva to Lyons. There she sent me to a good inn, saying I was not to go away from it till a good and cheap opportunity arose, which also happened in a week. An empty postchaise was going to Montpellier, and only cost me 5 shillings for that distance.

I was taken by my postillion to a frightfully dear house in Montpellier, and I knew no one, and no one knew me; but in a few days I made the acquaintance of a German doctor through my landlady, because I understood very little *patois*. She introduced me to him, one Herr Antoine Frederic Molie, Doctor of Medicine, from the town of Christian-Erlang in France. I have some of his own handwriting by me still.

Now when I made the acquaintance of this Dr. Molie I told him of my acquaintance with Dr. Trew, whereupon he said that he also knew him. Immediately he found for me a new, good, and cheap lodging before the evening came, with which I was entirely satisfied, and remained over a month at Montpellier to look round the herb-garden and the surrounding country; but during this time there was a great heat, and almost all the plants were burnt up by it. Nevertheless, I prepared some paintings for Dr. Trew, and, if I remember rightly, sent them off from there to Nuremberg.

[Dr. Trew remarks that he only received three paintings from here on account of the plants being dried up; but these showed all the more care and a marked improvement in execution.]

As it was my intention to go to Paris, I did not care to make any special friends at Montpellier; but instead I started with some muleteers over the mountains of Auvergne to Clermont. After three days' journey from Montpellier, we came to the little town Milliau, where we remained for some days and rested ourselves.

Now, since on this journey I took pleasure, as is my custom, in the collecting of wild flowers, the muleteers took me for a doctor, though I contradicted them many times. They told it secretly to the host where we lodged at Milliau in Auvergne, and he asked me whence I came, and what was my business. I answered him that I travelled for pleasure, and was a lover of plants. "Oh," said the host, "I will soon find out; my son is a doctor practising in this town, and he has also studied botany under Professor Chicoyneau at Montpellier." At this I was astonished, and thought I might learn something from him. The young doctor [Dr. Lame] thereupon soon came to examine me as to what brought me hither; but I soon satisfied him by showing him my passport, and the open letter of recommendation from Dr. Eichrodt. Thereupon he desired to go botanising with me, and conducted me about in the neighbourhood, where I found many beautiful plants, and particularly some which in Germany are cultivated in gardens.

I may here remark that in the mountains the plants are later than in Montpellier.

We collected over 100 in the few days I was there, and gave most of them their botanical names; for though he understood little of botany, he was most eager about it. He doubted if the names were right: in order to satisfy him, I unpacked the Flora Norimb. of Volk, which I had brought all the way from Regensburg: I found therein most of the names, although not all, and he was satisfied.

He and his father treated me most generously all the time I was there, and charged me nothing. They gave me a letter of recommendation to M. de Chicoyneau, who had gone from Montpellier to Versailles as private physician to the King. The letter was not written directly to M. de Chicoyneau, but to one of his acquaintances at Versailles who should introduce me.

The letter, which I still have in the original, for I did not deliver it, runs thus:—

“De Milliau, le 8 Aoust, 1734.

“MONSIEUR,

“Connoissance [*sic*] votre honesteté, j’ay crue que vous voudriez bien la témoigner à Mr. Ehret, allemand, garçon d’un vrai mérite, que sa curiosité, et la grande envie qu’il a [de] se perfectionner de plus en plus dans la connoissance des plantes, a fait traverser quantité de pays. Il a passé par Montpellier, où Banal n’a pas eu toute la complaisance, et moins encore l’attention qu’il mérite. [Banal was herb-gardener at Montpellier.] Sans doute qu’il n’a pas connu ses talens, qui paroissent assez par ses ouvrages, et je puis dire avec vérité que si le jeune homme avoit eu de principes, comme il m’a assuré qu’il n’avoit pas, c’eût été un prodigé. Il connoit très bien les plantes. J’ai été le mener aux environs de Milliau, mais ils n’ont pas plantes qu’il n’ait désigné par leurs [noms]. Je pensois qu’il avoit un recommandation de Mr. de Chiquoyneau [Chicoyneau] fils, au père de Mr. de Chiquoyneau premier médecin du Roy; mais il m’a dit que non. Si vous voulez bien le luy faire connoitre vous m’obligerez très fort, et sçachant que Mr. de Chiquoyneau aime les botanistes de son mérite il sera aise de luy faire plaisir. En mon particulier j’en auroi beaucoup si j’apprens qu’il a causé aux une et aux autre par la connoissance je procure et qui peut devenir avantageuse pour le public. J’ay l’honneur d’être très parfaitement

“Votre très humble et très obéissant Serviteur,

PELET.”

I then continued my journey to Clermont, and as I had found several rare plants at Milliau, which were unknown to me, I took them with me to find out about them from M. Bernhard de Jussieu. He soon told me the names, one of which I remember still, ‘*Ageratum alpinum serratifolium*.’

At Clermont I was again most fortunate. It was a great market-day, and no lodging was to be had for money, and no one would take me in; so I resolved to spend the night in the hay

over the mules' stable; but it was impossible to stay there or rest, both on account of the heat and also the smell of the stable. So I walked about the streets of Clermont, when I happened to meet a man and complained to him that no lodging was to be had. This man took me at once to his lodging, and I assured him that he need not fear me, that he could enquire about me of the muleteers. He gave me his own bed for the night, and treated me also to a glass of wine and some supper.

In order not to remain longer here, I continued my journey, walking quite alone, and reached Paris safely. I at once delivered my letter of recommendation from Dr. Eichrodt to Professor Bernhard de Jussieu; and he thereupon gave me a room and a bed in the great garden-house which stands empty in the herb-garden; and here I stayed all the winter. Here I completed some paintings of rare plants for Dr. Trew, and, if I remember rightly, sent them from Paris to Nuremberg.

["Among these was the Japanese Lily, mentioned below, *Lilio-narcissus*, the gold dots incomparably painted on parchment."]

I did not expect any more from the herb-garden than my free lodging. However, I made the acquaintance of M. le Marquis de Gouvernet, in whose garden flourished the Japanese Lily, in French 'La Grenesienne.' I could hardly execute enough copies of this plant, because he made presents of them. Thereby I gained part of my living, at the same time doing some work for M. du Fay and some other people. However, even then I could not manage, and my money was coming to an end, although MM. Antoine and Bernhard de Jussieu assured me that if I needed anything they would help me, as, indeed, once happened. But I became afraid to ask for more lest I should be a burden to them; so I resolved to go in the spring to Holland, which undertaking I laid before the MM. de Jussieu. They, however, dissuaded me, saying it would be much better for me to visit the English gardens; and though I represented to them that I had no acquaintances there, they persisted so much that I could not refuse, and M. Bernhard de Jussieu loaded me so with letters of recommendation, that it could hardly go ill with me (and when I started for England he gave me twelve letters of recommendation), also one from M. du Fay to the Duke of Richmond; also an excellent passport through M. du Fay, Governor of the garden, which he received from the King, signed with his own hand.

The passport runs thus:—

(N.B. The passport written by the King himself is written in old French.)

"De par le Roy,

"A tous Gouverneurs et noz Lieutenans généraux en noz provinces et armées, Gouverneurs particuliers et Commandans

de noz Villes, places etc., et à touz autres noz Officiers, Justiciers et Sujetz qu'il appartiendra, Salut. Nouz voulons et vouz mandourons expressément que vouz ayez à laisser surement et librement passer le nommé George Ehret, jardinier, allemand, de notre Jardin Royal des plantes, allant en Angleterre, sans luy donner ny souffrir qu'il luy soit donné aucun empêchement, maiz au contraire l'ayde ou assistance dont il aura besoin. Le présent passeport valable pour troiz moiz seulement : car tel est notre plaisir.

"Donné à Versailles le vingt-huit février 1735.

"LOUIS.

"Par le Roy.

"*Gratis. Chemalin.*"

When this passport was handed to me, I was given to understand that everyone does not receive such a thing. Many people have wondered over it. M. le Marquis, to whom I also showed it, told me that although the passport only held good for three months, it would nevertheless bring me back without trouble.

I then began my journey to Calais. The fortresses between Paris and Calais render a good passport necessary, especially in time of war ; but as a German I needed for nothing, and travelled in this dangerous war-time supplied with the best passports. I travelled quite alone with my small package on my back, and feared nothing.

I came first to Abbeville, where, according to custom, I was immediately asked by the sentinel whence I came. I answered, from Paris ; and he demanded my passport, which I refused to give into the hands of a common soldier. Thereupon I was led, with fixed bayonets, to the Governor, showed him my royal passport, and was immediately set free. The next day I continued my journey, and arrived safely at Calais.

While in my autobiography I am still in France, I must add one or two things of interest.

M. Bernhard de Jussieu told me many times about the gardens and plants which he had seen in England (a few years earlier), and interested me much ; at another time he told me how he had seen the garden of Mr. Collinson, where there were many beautiful plants, particularly one which was quite new. Mr. Collinson, who wished to know what it was, asked M. de Jussieu for the name. He replied it was a new plant which he had never seen. Mr. Collinson pressed him to give it a name, whereupon he answered, "If I must do so, then let it be a *Collinsonia*." This M. de Jussieu related to me.

So I journeyed from Calais to London, and having a letter of recommendation to Mr. Collinson, I was curious to see his garden, and particularly the new *Collinsonia*. I related to him M. de Jussieu's story, and the plant kept this name, through me, among the botanists in England, notwithstanding that it had never been published.

When I reached London, I had to run about not a little to present my letters of recommendation.

I went first to Mr. [Sir Hans] Sloane, who promised to help me if I needed it; and so did all the others. I have still one, which I did not deliver, having forgotten it, and this I will insert. It was to Dr. Mortimer, Secretary of the Royal Society.

[The letter is inserted, but does not appear to be worth copying into this narrative.]

To Mr. Miller (whose acquaintance I have dropped for several years) I give all credit for the trouble which he took to recommend me, a few days after my arrival. I obtained a supply of work for some considerable time; but by degrees it diminished.

[Ehret brought a letter of introduction to Miller, whom he had not known before. The supposition that Miller and Ehret were formerly friends and that Miller induced Ehret to come to England is quite erroneous.]

In my spare time I worked at plants to send to Nuremberg.

As Dr. Trew himself knows, the most of my work, perhaps one of the greatest collections, is at Nuremberg. To save time, I will leave all that to him, and go on with my story. [Dr. Trew remarks that at this time Ehret sent him about 200 paintings of new plants from London.]

I remained a year here, and then, as I had my letter of recommendation from the Margrave, I resolved to go to Holland, where I arrived safely. I remained a year in Leyden, and there I heard of Mr. Linnæus, who was staying with Mr. Clifford at Haarlem. I completed during this time several curious plants, with their characteristics added thereto, which I had found in England, in order to recommend myself still further when presenting the letter. I walked to Haarlem and presented the royal letter of recommendation; and as the date of it was two years earlier, I was questioned as to where I had been during the interval, upon which point I satisfied Mr. Clifford.

I showed him my work in the presence of Mr. Linnæus, than whom no one was more eager in the characters of plants. There were some quite new plants among them. Mr. Clifford then asked me if I wished to sell them, and what my price was, took almost everything that I had with me, and paid me what I asked, namely, 3 Dutch gulden a piece. He kept me more than a month at Haarlem; and in that time I completed all the figures which came out in the 'Hortus Cliffortianus,' *Collinsonia*, *Turnera*, etc., which I had brought from England. I told Mr. Linnæus the story as related above about the first author of *Collinsonia*; but when he was a beginner he appropriated everything for himself which he heard of, to make himself famous; but I contend, on the other hand, that he was not the first author of *Collinsonia*, but M. Bernhard de Jussieu. [As Dr. Trew remarks, the true authorship of *Collinsonia* is passed over in the 'Hortus Cliffortianus.']

I profited nothing from him in the dissection of the plants; for all the plants in the 'Hortus Cliffortianus' are my own undertaking, and nothing was done by him in the way of placing all the parts before me as they are figured: for I had done all this, as the noble Dr. Trew knew, many years before I had ever heard of Mr. Linnæus. [Dr. Trew confirms this, saying the paintings that Ehret had sent him before this time were done in the same way.] If he had been able to show them in this way, why have not the characteristics of the remainder in the book been added which were not drawn by me? Nevertheless I received no special credit for this, but was treated only as a common draughtsman.

During the time I was with Mr. Clifford I was treated courteously. I did not then know that Linnæus intended to publish a 'Hortus Cliffortianus.' Linnæus and I were the best of friends; he showed me his new method of examining the stamens, which I easily understood, and privately resolved to bring out a *Tabella* of it. As my work with Mr. Clifford was now coming to an end, I returned to Leyden and edited the plates under the title "Clariss. Linnæi, M.D. Methodus Plantarum Sexualis in Systemate Naturæ descripta. Lugd.-Bat.: 1736. G. D. Ehret. Palat.-Heidelb."

["This table or plate is printed on a half-sheet, and contains 24 figures of the different number and connection of the stamens with the pistils."* It was first published in Linnæus's 'Genera Plantarum,' first edition, Leyden, 1737, and is entitled 'Caroli Linnæi Classess (*sic*) Literæ.' The letters of the alphabet are used in the original drawing; but in the engraving they are replaced by figures. Ehret's name is omitted from the engraving. "This very plate, very badly copied, and, as is the custom with engravers on copper, very carelessly reversed, and without Herr Ehret's name, is also to be found in the edition of this work, which was brought out at Leipzig in 1748 in 8vo, after the 6th book-fair; but in the copy of the same edition which I possess the plate is omitted." The original drawing of the Linnean classes is preserved in the Botanical Department of the British Museum. It is signed "G. D. Ehret. Fecit et edidit. Lugd.-Bat. 1736." This drawing came into the possession of the British Museum with a collection of Ehret's sketches and drawings.]

With this *Tabella* I once more earned some money; for I sold it at 2 Dutch gulden apiece; and almost all the botanists in Holland bought it of me.

I also took a journey to Amsterdam, to see everything in the Botanical Garden there. The Dutch gardens did not please me so well as those in England, which are full of rare plants.

I journeyed then again to England, and as the 'Musa fructu cacumerico longior' belonging to Baron Joseph Ayloffé was blooming, in the year 1736 I drew it for him and engraved it on copper. ["It may be remarked that Herr Ehret now began to engrave some of his own paintings on copper."]

* The quotations are from Dr. Trew's MS. life of Ehret in the British Museum.

In the year 1737, in August, the '*Magnolia flore ingenti candido*' was blooming in the garden of Mr. Charles Wager at Parsons Green, near Fulham. I went there nearly every day from Chelsea to Parsons Green, which is about 3 miles distant, to observe the plant from its first bud and what might come (there were no more) till the flower was quite complete. I drew every individual part of it in order to publish a perfect botanical plate; and I was the first to observe the characters of it minutely, and my valued patron, Dr. Trew, has made me through this not a little known in the *Commercii Litteraria*. I sent some of these plates, through the late Herr Beurer, who was then returning, to M. Bernhard de Jussieu in Paris, who answered me in this letter:—

“MONSIEUR,

“Je voudrais bien pouvoir vous témoigner combien je suis sensible aux attentions que vous avez eu jusqu'icy, de me faire part de dessins des plantes nouvelles et autres qui fleurissent rarement chez vous. Il ne me manque que les occasions de vous en marquer ma reconnoissance. J'ai reçu la planche du *Magnolia*. Cette plante est très bien représentée et j'y ay reconnu une exactitude surprenante dans toutes les parties qui composent cette magnifique fleur. Je souhaiterais fort vous estre utile et pouvoir vous procurer des moyens plus avantageux de satisfaire vostre goût; je tacherois pour lors de vous persuader de ma reconnoissance et des sentiments d'estime avec lequel je suis

“Vostre très humble et très obéissant serviteur,

“B. DE JUSSIEU.”

“A Paris le 26 juillet, 1738.”

It happened that when this plate was finished, I went to Lord Petre's garden to find something new. This gentleman was building the largest glass-houses in England, if not in the world. (See my Tab. 3, the large house for the Papaya, which stands quite free therein.) His property lies 15 miles from London [at Brentwood], close by the great road which goes from London to Harwich, where all the foreigners from Holland and London cross the sea. I remained there some days, and collected many rare specimens; and on my return to London I left them at an inn near Lord Petre's garden, to be sent on by the first coach to London.

As the Harwich coach was the first to pass, my rare specimens were put on to that, and I awaited them the same evening in London at a large inn in Gracechurch Street. When the coach came, I asked for my packet and received it. Meanwhile two Germans descended from the coach and consulted what they should do for a lodging; no one understood them. I listened to all this, and resolving to help them, I went round to look at their faces. I at once fancied that I knew one of them, and thought to myself, he is exactly like Herr Beurer; so I asked him at once in these words, “Are you not Herr Beurer?” He said at once,

“Herr Ehret!” Our old acquaintanceship was renewed, after a lapse of several years, until he was removed from the temporal to the everlasting world.

Shortly after Herr Beurer’s arrival Herr Linnæus came to London. He stayed a month here, and I sent him plates to finish the ‘Hortus Cliffortianus.’

About this time I had married one Susanna Kennet, sister of the wife of Mr. Philip Miller, herb-gardener at Chelsea (1738), whose father was a Mr. Kennet, a burgher and baker at Southwark in London, who had honourably supported himself in his trade of baker. In order to keep this account short, I will here add that we had three children; two died soon after their birth, and one still lives, whom I sent, as a small boy, to the University of Oxford, the best school, till he was 15 years old. Two years ago I apprenticed him to an apothecary and surgeon at Watford, in Hertfordshire, for 7 years, and spent 50 guineas upon him. He loves his profession, and has done very well so far.

[Dr. Trew says that in 1742 Ehret published a plate of the above-mentioned Papaya, which fruited for the first time in Europe on the 30th January of that year. Dr. Trew further adds details of the plate, which need not be inserted here.]

Some years after I came to England I became acquainted with the excellent Dr. Mead, Royal Physician, who engaged me; and I prepared for him, from time to time, paintings of rare plants, mostly with a description of them, on great folia of parchment, at one guinea apiece. The number of them reached at last 200.

This work, over which I spared no pains, was not kept secret by Dr. Mead, as by others, but he showed it to everyone in order to bring me on in the world, and made suggestions for disposing of my work at sales, as many painters have done.

While this work was on hand, I was preparing at the same time [drawings of] many rare plants, and those which now are appearing in the ‘Plantæ Selectæ.’

Dr. Mead died, and all his collection of curiosities was sold a few years ago by auction, when my 200 plates, complete and bound in two volumes, were laid before everyone. This brought me no little glory, and they were sold for 160 K. [about £36]. If they had been divided up in the auction, they would have brought in twice as much money, for they were too many for a single lot.

During the time that I was earning my living from Dr. Mead and others, I began, in 1748, to issue plates of rare plants under the title ‘Plantæ et Papilionēs Rariores depictæ et aeri incisæ a Georgio Dionysio Ehret, Palat. Heidelb. 1748,’ which plates from that time to 1757 only reached 14 in number. Tab. 4 and 8 of these plates are represented with the character of the plants under the title “Characteres Plantarum variarum observati, delineati, et aeri incisi a Georgio Dionysio Ehret, Palat. Heidelb. 1748.”

During this time I published a large plate of the great ‘Agaricus

ramosus cornu reniferi referens,' 1744; as also all the plants drawn in Dr. Pocock's History, and engraved them on copper. I also prepared those of Dr. Hughes' 'History of Barbadoes,' and, lastly, Dr. Browne's 'History of Jamaica.' All the plants were drawn by me, and the descriptions, so far as I could see them from the dried plants, were added by me alone, after dissection. And then, lastly, all the plants in Dr. Russel's 'History of Aleppo.'

I may here remark on the eagerness of Dr. Browne over the plants. He sent me a great number to my rooms that I might choose forty of them; and before I had laid on a single stroke he paid me 40 guineas, for he feared I would not accept his work without being prepaid. But the plants of Dr. Browne and Dr. Russel I refused to engrave on copper, although they wished to pay me some money for it; indeed, they even offered me twice as much as any other engraver on copper.

I must shorten my writing as much as possible, and add the correspondence with Herr Linnæus since I left Holland; but to add all of it here in this place is, I think, unnecessary. I will, however, here give the contents of two letters:—

"Amico antiquo G. D. Ehret s. pl. d.

"Multa tibi debeo, amice colende, quod multoties pulcherrima tua dona ad me misisti. Doleo et dolui semper quod . . . licuit numeris officiis . . . , quum ego remotissimus habitem. Omnes qui vident tuas picturas stupescunt. Est nobis Pictor Academiæ senex qui nec videt nec audit, omnes huiusmodi [? plorant] ejus fatum, . . . , ut te possent invitare, quamvis deservient obtinere, cum tui . . . non vident orbis.

"Accepi tuum Cereum minimum, et Agaricum ramosum, et Magnoliam, singula artis magisteria. . . .

"Dabam Upsaliæ, 1747, d. 12 Aug."

"Pictori egregio D^{no} G. D. Ehret, amico antiquo.

".... Ad hanc Academiam nostram Upsaliensem comparavimus et instruximus observatorium astronomicum, hortum botanicum, theatrum anatomicum, instrumenta physica, et omnia quæ ad ornamentum scientiarum spectant. Solus pictor deficit. Habemus senem pictorem, cujus fata expectamus; tum nil magis votis nobis esset, [quare?] si te potuissemus nobis comparare, tum haberemus omnia.

"Dabam Upsaliæ, 1747, d. 2 Octobris."

That all may now come in order concerning my desire to enter a botanic garden, I will here relate how in the year 1750, in November, I was elected without any difficulty to the Botanic Garden of the University of Oxford. I only remained a year in that service; but in that time I behaved in such a way that the whole University was satisfied with me. It was Dr. [Humphry] Sibthorp

[successor to Dr. Dillenius] who brought me there, through his flattering letters; but the friendship soon came to an end. The man became exceedingly jealous of me because I was more thought of in botany than himself. I should have a great deal to say did I mention here all his unkindness, for which cause I requested permission to resign at the end of the year, left the Garden and resumed my former work again. I did myself no harm at all by this, but rather good; for I had not only made myself known in Oxford to all the students in botany, but also to my present distinguished scholars, who, having heard much fame of me in Oxford, still remain with me. I am sure the good Dr. Sibthorp will always remember me.

Here I must mention the journey with Mr. Ellis to Bright-helmstone, in Sussex, in June 1754. See Ellis's Essays, Introduction, p. viii.

I received a letter from Dr. Oeder inviting me to enter the Royal service at Copenhagen. The letter was sent to me at Bulstrode, the property of the Duke of Portland, where I was staying at that time. It runs thus:—

“Most honoured Sir!

“My name and the greater part of the contents of this letter are, as Mr. Ellis tells me, already known to you. As it is uncertain when you will come to town and I shall have the pleasure of speaking to you, I will convey to you in writing what I should prefer to have said by word of mouth.

“A botanic garden has been founded in Copenhagen under the special superintendence of the Court Marshal, Count von Molke, and I am appointed by him the Professor of Botany.

“I am now, by command of his Majesty the King, travelling about to see the principal botanic gardens. In this garden a delineator of botanical drawings is to be always maintained on the Staff under suitable conditions. If you, honoured Sir, should be disposed to accept this post, I am convinced that we should make a good acquisition; I will not burden you with praise, my letter and offer give the best proof of my respect for your powers.

“I am commissioned to find some one to suit us; and the conditions which I am empowered to offer are as follows:—

“1. The post is for life.

“2. The salary is 150 Re, or £30 sterl.

“3. For every plant that is drawn, large or small, only to be painted in Indian ink, there is reckoned 4 Re, whereby an artist can earn more, since he can draw in a year more than 60 plants, and thereby make 250 Re beyond his fixed salary.

“4. This yearly salary of 400 Re, or £80 sterl., of which I have said 150 Re is fixed, and the remainder, namely 250 Re, depends on the industry of the artist, may be rendered a certainty, for if through our fault an opportunity of

earning the 250 fails, the remainder of the money is placed to his account without his having furnished the work. Should he draw more than 60 plants in the year, he would earn so much more over and above the 400 Re.

5. The artist must accept no outside work without the knowledge and consent of the botanical Professor.
6. He must accompany the botanical Professor on his travels; and while travelling he will be free in all respects from the above-named conditions.

"If, you, honoured Sir, do not object to my proposal, but wish to discuss anything with me in connection with these terms, then we must and can talk it over by word of mouth, when I can give you more details of the nature of the post offered to you.

"I propose to remain 5 weeks longer in England, then I go to Paris, and in January or February of next year I return to Copenhagen. The following May I begin my journey to Norway, whither, if you come to us, you will accompany me, and probably stay there with me 3 summers and 2 winters. Do not fear Norway; we shall travel with all comfort. The mode of living is English.

"In the terms of agreement it is possible, as I said, to make alterations, which could be done at a personal interview.

"You, honoured Sir, are a well-known and tried man, which will assuredly be taken into consideration in Copenhagen.

"I am, honoured Sir,

"Yours obediently,

"DR. OEDER."

In the year 1749 I began to give instruction in painting of plants and flowers to the highest nobility of England; and in my whole life I have not been so prosperous as during the last years, God be thanked!

Although I accepted the post in Oxford in 1750, my intention was to publish plants on my own account (because the salary was not large) in order to earn more money; and I intended, if this proved successful, to give up all my pupils. But my pupils were glad when I came back; indeed, they were much more eager to have me than before. If I could have divided myself into twenty parts I could have had my hands full.

I recommended all those to whom I gave instruction to lay all the plants, that they did with me, into books. Now, in these eight years some of my pupils made collections of 100. Yes, some even finished 2, 3, and 4 times as many; and on each sheet were added the right botanical names. This all took place under my direction; and there had never been anything of the kind in England before.

I will only mention a few of my pupils. Among them were the following persons:—the Duchess of Norfolk, the Duchess of Leeds, two daughters of the Duchess of Portland, two daughters of the Duchess of Bridgewater, two daughters of the Duke of

Kent, the Countess of Carlisle, the Countess of Morton, two daughters of Lord Pomfret, three daughters of the Earl of Essex, a daughter of Lord Guildford, Lady Carpenter, four daughters of Sir John Heathcote, etc., etc.

Of all these people very few wish to leave off; and I have had some of them for eight years in my hands, so that I can receive no more.

My work lasts for six months in the year, that is, from the beginning of January till June, when they all depart to their country seats for the summer, and I stay now and then for some time with one or other of them; thus I have an excellent opportunity of seeing much in England.

I must also mention that this winter, 1758, a considerable collection of my work, which I had prepared for a Baron Francis St. John a few years ago, was sold at an auction. I went privately to the auction to hear how my work went; and as they were sold singly, they ran up to a high price, so that most of them went at double the money, some for two or three times as much. This brought me not a little fame, and many people congratulated me on it.

Through the many acquaintances which I made in England by my work, I was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of London on May 19th, 1757.

It is a strange thing that the names of all the foreign Fellows of the Royal Society are published in a separate list, and are not mixed with those in the English list, as is the custom in England. My name, however, was entered in the English list, and I am the only German among them.

N.B.—But, according to English custom, I had to pay 25 guineas to the Society on my election. Foreigners do not pay.

Written by GEORG DIONYSIUS EHRET of Heidelberg the 27th October, 1758, in Park Street, London.

[This translation has been made by Miss E. S. Barton from the original MS. in German, preserved in the Botanical Department of the British Museum, a few obvious misspellings being corrected. The accompanying portrait is from a photograph of an original painting in the possession of Mrs. Grover, the widow of one of Ehret's lineal descendants; and the translator desires to express her indebtedness to Mrs. Grover as well as to Capt. Miller Layton for kindly helping her to obtain an authentic portrait of their ancestor.]



Ehret, Georg Dionysius. 1895. "A memoir of Georg Dionysius Ehret : born at Heidelberg, 30 Jan. 1708, died in London, 9 Sept. 1770 / written by himself, and translated, with notes, by E.S. Barton." *Proceedings of the Linnean Society of London* (1894-1897), 41-58.

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