

## NOTES.

**A NEW CORDYCEPS.**—A very remarkable species of *Cordyceps* has just been received at the Kew Herbarium from Owen's River, Victoria, where it was discovered by Miss M. Henley. It springs from a large caterpillar, and differs from all known species in the sharply differentiated fertile branches being erumpent from a simple, vertical stroma, eight to nine inches high; also in peculiarities of the ascophore. It will be known as *Cordyceps Henleyae*, and will be described in detail at a later date. G. MASSEE, Kew.

**ABSORPTION OF WATER BY DEAD ROOTS.**—Several experiments have already been made relative to the power of dead roots to supply nourishment to plants<sup>1</sup>, leading to the conclusion that if the roots are killed without being ruptured, they may continue to take up moisture, and thus keep the plants alive for a considerable time. The matter may be roughly tested by killing the roots of the plants by immersing them for a time in boiling water, and carefully noting the results.

The following plants were experimented upon, with the result which any cultivator would have anticipated, namely, that dead roots are incapable of affording any continual sustenance to the plants to which they are attached. At the same time it is interesting to observe that in many cases the plants remained fresh for several days after their roots were killed. In every case care was taken to prevent the heat or steam from the boiling water from injuring the leaves or stems of the plants above the 'collar.' For the purpose of comparison the tops of two plants of *Cassia alata* were cut off level with the soil, and placed in water in the same house with those treated with boiling water. It will be seen that specimen 3, which had been severed under water remained fresh as long as the plant with boiled roots.

*Cassia alata*.—1. Plant in pot: roots immersed in boiling water on Feb. 16th, 1893; had not suffered on 20th; flagged on 23rd; leaves turned brown on 25th, and finally died.

<sup>1</sup> See Strasburger, *Leitungsbahnen in den Pflanzen*, Histologische Beiträge, III, p. 849, and the papers there cited.



Massee, George. 1894. "A new Cordyceps." *Annals of botany* 8, 119–119.  
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