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About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.



1819-1857

Botanical FLS
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Denmark 166



The Editor of
The Gardener's Chronicle
5. Charles Street
Covent Garden

A Henry Home Fairly Rings

The theory of the ^{Prof.} formation of fairy rings proposed by Prof. Way, appears to me, to lie open to a fatal objection. He speaks of the fungi as secreting a large quantity of the phosphates. Surely they can contain none beside that which they have obtained from the soil and which on their decay they restore to it; the luxuriance of the subsequent crop of grass is rather to be attributed to the nitrogenous products of the decayed fungi which are actual additions to the soil.

Prof. Way does not seem to be aware of the explanation given by botanists of the cause of these phenomena. The "toadstools"

are the fructification of the
fungus and are produced at
the growing border of the
underground thallus or spawn.
This grows only at this
border, ~~and~~ ^{radiating in every} direction
from the ~~original~~ ^{originally} centre where
the spore germinated. This
radial growth clearly explains
the increased diameter of each
successive circle or crop of
reproductive organs. The shedding
of spores would not be likely to
effect a reproduction taking such
a definite form and occurring
in such ^{regular} succession, since we know
of nothing more irregular and
uncertain than the germination of
the spores of the higher Fungi.