of ſkill and attention devote their time to the raiſing of ſilk worms. This is an employment that will not in­terfere with any manufacture already eſtabliſhed ; on the contrary, it would afford a reſpectable, a lucrative, and agreeable employment to ladies, or to females in gene­ral, who have at preſent too few profeſſions to which they can apply. The ſociety inſtituted at London for the encouragement of arts, manufactures, and com­merce, much to their honour, have offered premiums to those who ſhall plant a certain number of mulberry trees.

The following method of raiſing mulberry trees from seed is practiſed in the ſouth of France, and has been repeated with ſucceſs in the Eaſt Indies by Dr Anderson of Madras. “ Take the ripe berries of the mulber­ry when it is full of juice and of feeds. Next take a rough horſe hair line or rope, ſuch as we dry linen on, and with a good handful of ripe mulberries run your hand along the line bruiſing the berries and maſhing them as much as poſſible as your hand runs along, ſo that the pulp and ſeeds of the berries may adhere in great abundance to the rope or hair line. Next dig a trench in the ground where you wiſh to plant them, much like what is practiſed in kitchen gardens in Eng­land for crops of various kinds. Next cut the rope or hair line into lengths according to the length of the trench you think fit to make, and plunge the line full of maſhed berries into the trench, and then cover it over well with earth, always remembering afterwards to wa­ter it well, which is eſſential to the ſucceſs. The ſeeds of the berries thus sown will grow, and ſoon ſhoot out young ſuckers, which will bear young leaves, which are the beſt food for the ſilk worm.

" The facility and rapidity with which young leaves may by this means be produced is evident, for as many rows of trenches may thus be filled as can be wiſhed ; and it can never be neceſſary to have mulberry trees higher than our raſpberries, currants, or gooſeberry buſhes. Whenever they get beyond that, they lose their value ; and if theſe trenches ſucceed, you may have a ſupply coming freſh up day after day, or any quantity you pleaſe.” Thus abundance of theſe trees might be reared. But as mulberry trees are not yet found in abun­dance in this country, it were to be wiſhed that ſome other food could be ſubſtituted in their place : attempts have accordingly been made by thoſe who have reared ſilk worms, and it has been found poſſible to ſupport the ſilk worm upon lettuce @@(b).

@@@Miſs Henrietta Rhodes, a lady who has made ſome ſucceſsful experiments on raiſing ſilk worms in England, had found that the ſilk worm could with ſafety be kept on lettuce for ſome time. This is pretty generally known by ladies who have turned their attention to this ſubject ; but ſhe found that in general they could not with ſafety be kept upon that food above three weeks. If longer fed upon that plant, the worms for the moſt part die without ſpinning a web at all. She found, however, that they did not always die, but that in ſome caſes they produced very good cocoons, even when fed entirely on lettuce. She therefore with reaſon ſuſpected that the death of the animal muſt be occaſioned by ſome extraneous circumſtance, and not from the poiſonous quality of the food itſelf ; the circumſtance ſhe ſuſtpected, from ſome incidental obſervations, was the coldneſs of that food ; and therefore ſhe thought it was not impoſſible, but if they were kept in a very warm place, while fed on lettuce, they might attain, in all caſes, a due perfection.

General Mordaunt having been informed of this con­jecture, reſolved to try the experiment. He got ſome ſilk worms eggs, had them hatched in his hot-houſe, and cauſed them to be all fed upon lettuce and nothing elſe. They proſpered as well as any worms could do, few or none of them died; and they afforded as fine cocoons as if they had been fed upon mulberry leaves. As far as one experiment can go, this affords a very exhilara­ting proſpect in many points of view. If one kind of food has been noxious, merely on account of an impro­per temperature, others may be found which have been hurtful only from a ſimilar cauſe ; ſo that it is not im­poſſible but we may at laſt find that this delicate crea­ture may be ſupported by a variety of kinds of food. Few, however, could be more eaſily obtained than let­tuce ; and this plant, when cabbaged (the coſs, or ice lettuce eſpecially), would poſſeſs one quality that the mulberry leaf never can poſſeſs, from the want of which many millions of worms die in thoſe countries where ſilk is now reared ; for it is obſerved, that when the leaves are gathered wet, it is ſcarcely poſſible to preſerve the worms alive for any length of time ; ſo that during a continuance of rainy weather many of them are unavoidably cut off ; but a lettuce, when cabbaged, reſiſts moiſture. If gathered, even during rain, the heart of it is dry ; ſo that if the outer leaves be thrown aſide at that time, the worms would be continued in perfect health. The expence, too, of cultivating and gathering lettuce, would be ſo much leſs than that of gathering mulberry leaves, as to occasion a ſaving that would be much more than ſufficient to counterbalance the expence of heating the conſervatory, as a little re­flection will ſhow.

But the great point to be now ascertained is, whe­ther it is a fact that worms fed on lettuce, if kept in a due temperature, will continue in good health, in gene­ral, till they ſhall have perfected their cocoon ? One experiment is too little to eſtabliſh this fact with perfect certainty. It would therefore be neceſſary that more experiments ſhould be made on this ſubject.

It is ſaid that Dr Lodovico Bellardi, a learned and ingenious botaniſt of Turin, has, after a number of ex­periments, diſcovered a new method of feeding ſilk worms, when they are hatched before the mulberry trees have produced leaves, or when it happens that the froſt deſtroys the tender branches. This new me­thod conſiſts in giving the worms dried leaves of the mulberry-tree. One would think that this dry nouriſh-

@@@[mu] Bee, N⁰ 70. 12. Miss Rhodes fed silk worms on lettuce for some time.

@@@(b) It is not improbable, ſays Dr Anderſon, to whoſe valuable work entitled the *Bee,* we have been much indebted in the drawing up of this article, that other kinds of food may be found which will anſwer the ſame purpoſe. The chicorium intybus and common endive might be tried, as they have the ſame lacteſcent quality with the lettuce.