

Rare Book
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THE
ORCHID MISSOURI
BOTANICAL
GARDEN. **ALBUM,**

COMPRISING

COLOURED FIGURES AND DESCRIPTIONS

OF

NEW, RARE, AND BEAUTIFUL

ORCHIDACEOUS PLANTS.

CONDUCTED BY

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J. Nugent Fitch del et lith.

CYPRIPEDIUM LEEANUM

H.S. Williams P.A.F.

CYPRIPEDIUM LEEANUM.

[PLATE 223.]

Garden Hybrid.

Epiphytal. *Stemless*, of neat dwarf habit, with distichous, spreading, evergreen foliage. *Leaves* linear-oblong acute, the upper surface green, the sheathing base spotted with purple. *Scapes* or *Peduncles* erect, pubescent, of a dark reddish purple, with bracts of the same colour. *Flowers* large, solitary, four inches across from tip to tip of the petals; *dorsal sepal* very large, fornicate, the apex on both sides of the costa further inflexed, one and three quarter inch long by two inches across, roundish in outline when flattened, the base green spotted with purple for a depth of about half an inch, the rest white, the upper third part being unspotted and the remainder thickly spotted in lines with rich purple, the spots larger and closer on the line of the costa forming a broken purple central bar or stripe; *petals* oblong obtuse, two and a half inches long, laterally decurved, the upper edge wavy the lower one plain, the ground colour tawny marked with close set longitudinal purplish red veins, of which one is shorter than the rest, a few spots and hairs at the base, and the margin having a narrow even edge of pale yellowish green; *lip* pouch-shaped, ovate, with the upper edge straight and the hinder margin rounded, brownish purple and veiny outside, the inside yellowish marked with reddish purple veins, the edge tawny yellow as is the roundish obovate *Staminode* which bears an orange-yellow spot towards the front and a tuft of reddish brown hairs at the base.

CYPRIPEDIUM LEEANUM, *Veitch MS.*; *Williams, Orchid-Grower's Manual*, 6 ed., 249.

Hybrid *Cypripediums* are becoming very numerous. As a class of free-blooming Orchids they are wonderfully useful, although many of them bear rather too close a resemblance to each other; still, there are many that are beautiful, and scarcely any that may not fairly be described as perfectly distinct. That which we are about to describe, *Cypripedium Leeaanum*, is a most charming and desirable kind, the result of a cross between *C. Spicerianum* and *C. insigne Maulei*. It was raised by Mr. Seden who has been successful in obtaining many choice hybrids for the Messrs. Veitch and Sons. The new hybrid was exhibited by the Messrs. Veitch in January, 1884, at one of the meetings of the Royal Horticultural Society, and in the following year, 1885, it was shown by Sir Trevor Lawrence, Bart., M.P., who had succeeded by hybridizing in obtaining the same form, there being very slight variation among the seedlings, although the plants from Sir Trevor Lawrence's batch were numerous. It is a remarkable coincidence for two persons thus to effect the same cross with identical results. Our figure was taken from the original plant in the collection of W. Lee, Esq., Downside, Leatherhead, in whose honour it was named by the Messrs. Veitch and Sons.

Cypripedium Leeatum is an evergreen plant, resembling *C. Spicerianum* in foliage, the leaves being about six inches in length, of a lively green, and the plant of good habit. The scapes are produced from the centre between the leaves and grow up well above the foliage, bearing the handsome flowers, each on a separate scape. The flowers have the dorsal sepal broadly ovate, curved forward, pure white, similar in form to that of *C. insigne Maulei*, but having a distinct broad dotted line down its centre; the base is emerald green with radiating spots of mauve running upwards into the white part; the petals resemble those of *C. insigne Maulei*, while the lip is of a shining brownish red. It blooms during winter, and lasts in flower for several weeks. The plants appear to be free in the production of blossoms.

We consider the Cattleya house the most suitable place for it. It is a free-rooting plant, and requires a good compost of rough fibrous loam, leaf mould, and charcoal intermixed, with good drainage. The pots should be half filled with crocks and moss placed on the top of them, in order that the material may be kept well open so as to permit the water to pass away without becoming stagnant. These plants require the soil to be kept moist during the growing season, which is after the flowering is over, and we find this also to be the most suitable time to re-pot them, as their roots then come forth with fresh vigour. During their resting season they require moisture, having no fleshy bulbs to support them. They should have all the light possible; care should, however, be taken to keep the sun from scorching the foliage, but when the heat of the day is over a little sunshine will not harm them.

POTTING ORCHIDS.—The potting of the plants is a very important operation. Some growers prefer to leave their plants to be potted all at the same time; this plan, however, may not suit all the specimens, as some may require potting before others, and they may not all at the same time be in such a state that they can bear it. If the soil is seen to be sour and soddened, remove it and cleanse the roots at once, as when in that state any delay would be dangerous. Some plants may only need top dressing, that is, taking away the old soil and replacing it with fresh material; in doing this be careful not to injure the roots or the young growths. Care should be taken not to expose the roots if they are accustomed to be covered up, if not it does not signify, as some roots like to grow outside the pots or baskets exposed to the moist atmosphere.—B. S. W.
