

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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THE COLOURED FIGURES BY JOHN NUGENT FITCH, F.L.S.

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CYPRIPEDIUM INSIGNE ALBO-MARGINATUM.

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[PLATE 232.]

Native of India.

Epiphytal. *Acaulescent*, the plant forming a close tuft of leaves produced directly from the crown. *Leaves* distichous, overlapping at the base, linear-ligulate acute, of a deep green colour, paler beneath. *Scapes* purplish, springing up from amongst the leaves. *Flowers* large and showy, very distinct from the type on account of a decided yellow tinge in their colour; *sepals* (dorsal) roundish-obovate, fornicate, two and a half inches long and two inches broad, boldly undulated, the lower two-thirds marked with an obovate blotch of greenish yellow traversed by light brown veins and decorated with scattered spots of a pale reddish brown, those near the central rib being the largest; the upper third a pure white forming a broad margin to the spotted portion, and this margin is continued nearly to the base, but becoming narrower downwards; *lateral sepals* smaller, united into an ovate-oblong organ, pale washy yellowish green marked with green veins and having the edges recurved; *petals* linear-oblong obtuse, two and a half inches long, slightly undulated, having a tuft of blackish hairs at the base, tawny-yellow marked with numerous fine parallel reddish brown veins over the surface, but most prominent along the centre, these veins being connected by short transverse veinlets; *lip* saccate, ovate with the posterior lobes lengthened out, the outer surface of a palish red-brown, the inner surface yellow dotted with brown. *Staminode* roundish-obovate, emarginate behind, apiculate in front, pubescent, deep yellow, with an orange coloured boss in the centre.

CYPRIPEDIUM INSIGNE ALBO-MARGINATUM, *Hort.; Williams, Orchid-Growers' Manual*, 6 ed., 248.

In a former plate we have given an illustration of the true *Cypripedium insigne*. We now figure a distinct variety of that species which we consider to be quite worth the trouble of cultivating. The plants require so little care, and can be grown in any warm glass frame or greenhouse, that, in fact, they become everybody's plants, and even those who have but little convenience for accommodating Orchids generally, can find a place for these. There are several other forms of *C. insigne* that thrive under similar treatment. They are all free-flowering plants, and last in perfection for seven weeks or more, at a time which makes them especially useful, viz., in winter. They may be taken into a warm room when in blossom. Many large specimens of *C. insigne* are grown in this way, and used for the decoration of halls and other places where there is plenty of light. They must be kept rather moist at the roots, and if set in the different parts of the house will do much to keep it gay for some time. When the flowering is over they should be returned to the place in which they were cultivated, in order to encourage them to make fresh growths and good foliage. Our

drawing was taken three years ago from a fine specimen in the well-known collection of W. Leach, Esq., Fallowfield, Manchester. Since that time these Orchids, which were under the care of Mr. Swan, have been distributed.

Cypripedium insigne albo-marginatum is an evergreen plant resembling *C. insigne* in its foliage and manner of growth. This, however, is a peculiar and desirable variety, there being a distinct yellowish cast in its flowers, and the dorsal sepal is broadly margined with white, this portion being quite devoid of the spotting usually found in the type. It produces its flowers during the autumn and winter months, and continues in bloom for seven weeks.

This variety requires the same treatment as the type *C. insigne*, which will be found to suit it admirably. The treatment referred to was explained in our fourth volume, Plate 155, under which full directions for culture are given.

CATTLEYA SPECIOSISSIMA.—We have to acknowledge having received from A. Heine, Esq., Fallowfield, Manchester, one of the most beautiful flowers of *Cattleya speciosissima* we have seen; it is, in fact, the finest that has come under our notice, the individual flowers measuring more than eight inches in diameter, each petal being three inches across, of a pale rose colour, wavy at the edge; the sepals of the same colour; the lip pale rosy purple bordered with pale rose. It had altogether a very attractive appearance.—B. S. W.

ODONTOGLOSSUM RUCKERIANUM.—We have just received a remarkably fine spike of this *Odontoglossum* from Mr. J. Routledge, gardener to C. L. Wood, Esq., Free-land House, Bridge of Earn, Perth. It bears thirty flowers of good size, and it is also a fine variety, the flowers differing slightly from the original type, as described in the *Orchid-Growers' Manual* (6 ed.). With this we received a photograph of the plant in its flowering state, which shows that it has well-grown pseudobulbs and fine foliage. It was imported with a batch of *O. crispum*, and is still a rare plant. We have no doubt that it is a natural hybrid, and that there are several of these hybrid forms of different colours growing in the same locality.—B. S. W.