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THE
ORCHID ALBUM,

COMPRISING

COLOURED FIGURES AND DESCRIPTIONS

OF

NEW, RARE, AND BEAUTIFUL

ORCHIDACEOUS PLANTS,

CONDUCTED BY

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CYPRIPEDIUM MARSHALLIANUM.

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[PLATE 418.]

Garden Hybrid.

Terrestrial. *Leaves* distichous, broadly oblong, obtuse, ground colour light green, mottled with very deep green on the upper side, dull purple beneath, about six inches long. *Dorsal sepals* large, broadly ovate, incurved towards the apex, ground colour white, faintly suffused with rosy purple over the entire surface, and faintly tinged with yellow towards the base, the veins densely dotted with purple; *lower sepal* smaller, creamy white, dotted in a less degree with purple; *petals* deflexed, broadly obtuse, coloured and dotted in a similar manner to the dorsal sepal; lip pale yellow, tinged with light green, flushed and dotted with purple on the upper part about the aperture, the interior pale yellow, dotted with purple. *Staminode* yellow, tinged with green, with a purple tinge in the centre.

CYPRIPEDIUM MARSHALLIANUM, *Reichenbach fil, Gardeners' Chronicle*, 1875, iv., n.s., p. 804; *Veitch's Manual of Orchidaceous Plants*, iv., p. 91.

This beautiful Veitchian hybrid has been in existence for many years, but such a slow grower is it, that for a long time the only plant that existed was in the rich collection of Slipper Orchids in the possession of F. G. Tautz, Esq., late of Studley House, Shepherd's Bush. Since then, however, the plant from which our drawing was taken has changed hands, and it is now in America, but one small plant only is, we believe, still in this country, and that is in The Woodlands collection, at Streatham. It is the result of a cross between *Cypripedium venustum* or *C. venustum pardinum* and *C. concolor*. It was for a long time a unique variety, but now we are in possession of one or two others, such as *C. Vipanii*, *C. Aylingii*, and *C. Arnoldianum*, with a similar contour, which robs the present plant of some of its charms for novelty, although they do not excel this for chaste delicacy. The great fault with this variety is its slow growth, but we suppose all hybrids having *C. concolor* or any of this section for parents will always be open to that complaint. One thing is certain, and that is, they cannot endure cutting, and great care is requisite in handling them, to do as little with the knife as possible. The plant here portrayed was grown as before stated in Mr. Tautz's fine collection, where everything was smart and clean before it was dispersed, and well cared for by Mr. Cowley, his gardener, who has obtained many promising seedlings, and hope that they will prove, on flowering, desirable acquisitions to this fine class of plants, and will make the new home of Mr. Tautz celebrated.

Cypripedium Marshallianum is a pretty plant; by its foliage it suggests to the mind at once that *C. venustum* was one of its parents. It is an old cross of the

Messrs. Veitch and Sons, and we learn that upon its first opening its flowers in their establishment little notice was taken of it, as it was not supposed to be of much value; but we cannot but think the flowers were not developed so well as these here depicted, for when we saw this plant in bloom, it seemed to us that it was a gem of the first water. As before remarked, *C. Marshallianum* is very slow in growth, a peculiar trait in all the hybrids belonging to the *concolor* group, that is, having this species for one of their parents. *C. concolor* is widely distributed, and appears always in the limestone formation, so that this should be taken into consideration both with it and any of its hybrids. We advise the drainage to be composed of small nodules of lime-stone, also some should be mixed with the soil in potting. Want of this material has probably been the cause of the slow growth of its hybrid *C. Marshallianum*. For soil use peat fibre and sphagnum moss, in about equal proportions, pressing the whole down firmly, and raising the plant above the rim of the pot but slightly. Water must be freely given, and therefore the drainage must be exceptionally good, in order to carry off any surplus quickly, thus preventing stagnation in any form. It is a plant that enjoys a warm moist atmosphere, and should therefore be treated to a liberal amount of light, heat and moisture, and we are under the impression that it delights in a humid atmosphere the entire season.
