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THE
ORCHID ALBUM,

COMPRISING

COLOURED FIGURES AND DESCRIPTIONS

OF

NEW, RARE, AND BEAUTIFUL

ORCHIDACEOUS PLANTS.

CONDUCTED BY

Plate 498
missing

ROBERT WARNER, F.L.S., F.R.H.S.

AUTHOR OF SELECT ORCHIDACEOUS PLANTS,

AND

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

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CYPRIPEDIUM CHARLESWORTHII.

CYPRIPEDIUM CHARLESWORTHII.

[PLATE 508].

Native of the East Indies.

Terrestrial. Acaulescent, tufted. *Leaves* distichous, oblong-lanceolate, acute, six to seven inches in length, about one inch broad, deep green, lower surface streaked and spotted with purple-brown as far as or beyond the middle. *Scapes* short, one-flowered. *Sheaths* pale green, beautifully spotted with purplish brown. *Flowers* three and a half inches across the longest diameter, *i.e.*, from tip of dorsal to tip of anterior sepal; *dorsal sepal* broadly obovate, very large, measuring two inches in height, and over two inches in width, of a beautiful rosy purple marbled with white at the apex and lower margins, veined and tessellated with a deeper hue of rosy purple, which becomes intenser towards the base; *anterior sepal* greenish yellow on the inner surface, faintly veined longitudinally, the outer surface veined with rosy purple; *petals* obovate-lanceolate, yellowish green, covered with purple-brown veins, which anastomose towards the apex; *lip* very small compared with the other parts, bronzy yellow, wide at the aperture, with an acute sinus in the anterior margin. *Staminode* very striking, porcelain-white, with a yellowish protuberance.

CYPRIPEDIUM CHARLESWORTHII, *Rolfe*, *Orchid Review*, 1893, i., p. 303. *Journal of Horticulture*, 1893, xxvii., p. 307, fig. 43. *Gardeners' Chronicle*, 3rd series, 1893, xiv., p. 437, fig. 70. *Orchid Review*, 1893, i., p. 355, with plate (frontispiece). *Gardeners' Magazine*, 1893, p. 750, with woodcut. *Williams' Orchid Grower's Manual*, 7th ed., p. 244. *Lindenia*, x., t. 443. *Gartenflora*, 1895, t. 1410.

No new *Cypripedium* has caused such a sensation since the introduction of *C. Spicerianum*, when a plant was sold for 100 guineas in Stevens' Auction Rooms. Our present subject cannot, however, claim to be a high-priced plant, as so large have the importations been of it, that good plants can now be purchased for a few shillings each. It was first introduced in 1893 by Messrs. Charlesworth and Co., of Bradford, and was by them exhibited before the Orchid Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society in September of the same year, when it was deservedly awarded a First Class Certificate. In habit of growth it resembles *C. Spicerianum*. The dorsal sepal is of great size, and being of such a lively rose colour should be of great service to the hybridizer.

Cypripedium Charlesworthii is of compact tufted habit, with deep green leaves, having the under surface marked with purple. The individual flowers are about three and a half inches in diameter, and the great beauty of the flowers lies in the dorsal sepal, which is broadly obovate, about two inches across, of a beautiful rosy purple colour, white towards the apex. It flowers during the autumn months, and continues in perfection for a long period. There is no doubt a great future

before this plant, as the flowers being of such a pleasing colour they will be much sought after for cutting and decorative purposes. This plant should be grown in the East Indian house, in a compost of rough fibrous peat and sphagnum moss. A few lumps of old mortar or limestone will also be beneficial to it, as the roots are very partial to these materials, and like to roam amongst them. The pots should be well drained, and the roots kept well moistened during the growing season.
