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THE
ORCHID REVIEW

An Illustrated Monthly Journal
DEVOTED TO ORCHIDOLOGY



VOLUME II

1894



Mo. Bot. Garden,
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An Illustrated Monthly Journal,

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CYPRIPEDIUM GODEFROYÆ LEUCOCHILUM.

THE beautiful plant which we have now the pleasure of figuring flowered in the collection of O. O. Wrigley, Esq., Bridge Hall, Bury, Lancashire, in January last, when the photograph here reproduced was taken, which represents the plant slightly under two-thirds natural size. The following interesting note was also communicated by Mr. Wrigley:—

“ I have now in flower a very fine bloom of the above-named *Cypripedium*, of which a description may interest your readers. The bloom measures three inches from tip to tip of the petals, and two and a quarter inches from the apex of the dorsal sepal to the lowest part of the pouch. The greatest width of the petals is one and three-eighth inches, and the dorsal sepal measures one and a half inches across its widest part. All these measure-

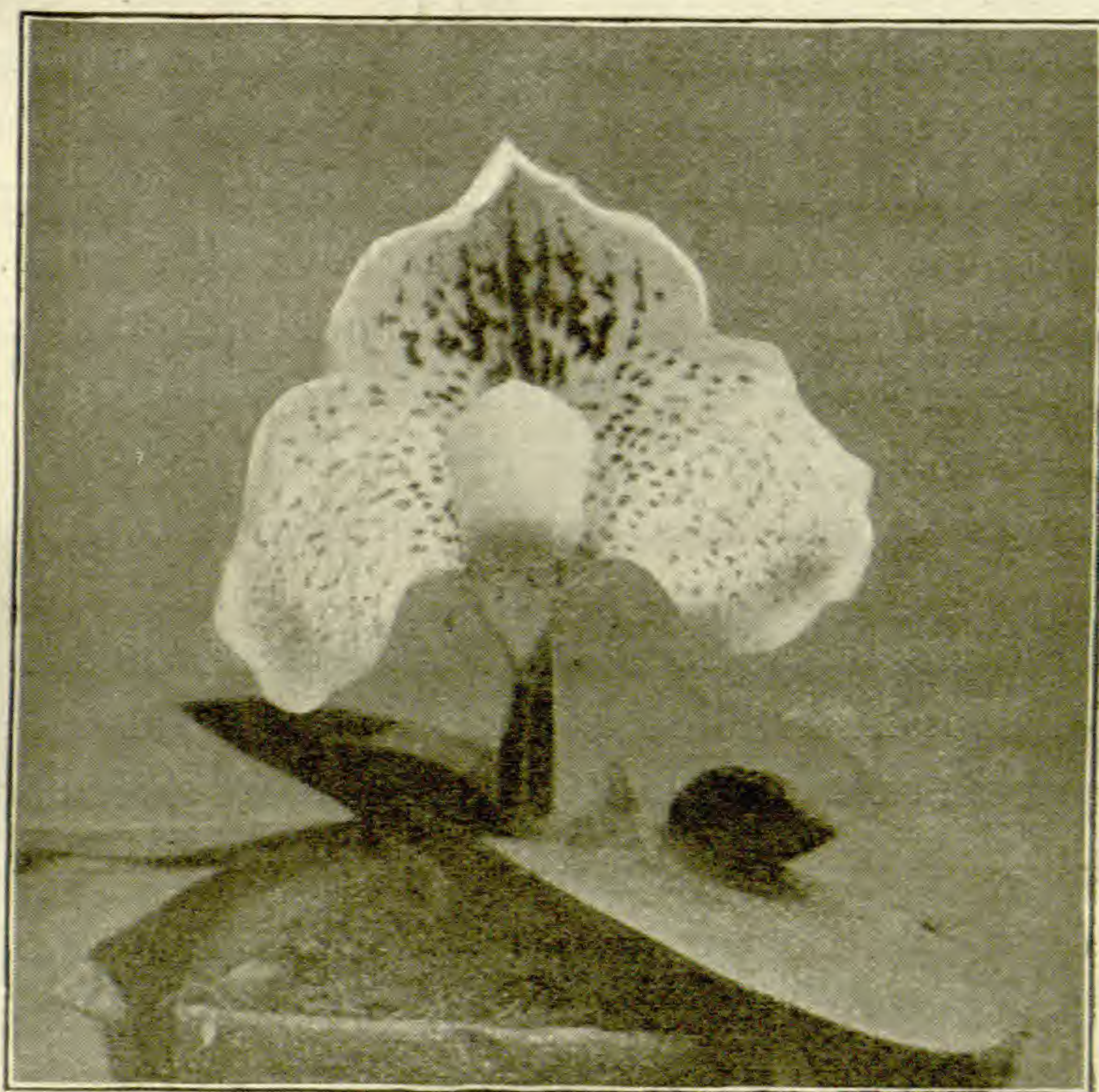


Fig. 16. *CYPRIPEDIUM GODEFROYÆ LEUCOCHILUM*.

ments have been carefully taken with a compass, and were verified by my gardener. The colouring of the flower is beautiful, and its markings distinct, the dorsal sepal being white, heavily blotched with dark purple, the petals similar, with smaller purple spots, while the lip bears out its name by being pure white, without a single spot. The petals are somewhat reflexed, but the dorsal sepal is incurved at the apex.

“ This plant was purchased, as an imported piece, at one of Messrs. Protheroe and Morris’s Auction Sales, in August, 1892, so that it has been established, and bloomed in seventeen months from the date of importation. Considering that this is the first bloom on an imported piece, it is possible that, when the plant grows strong, the flower may be still larger.

“ I may remark that I am successfully cultivating all the *Cypripedia* of this section, and attribute my success entirely to careful watering, and proper attention to atmospheric surroundings. I possess upwards of one hundred plants, all of which are healthy and increasing in size. All my plants are potted with limestone, in place of crocks, with which stone the pot is completely filled, so that the roots can run about as on their native rocks. The merest atom of fibrous loam is wedged between the stones on the top of the pot, in order to keep them firm when the plant is dipped. The winter temperature of the house in which they are growing is, maximum by day, 65° Fahr., and minimum by night, 60°, by pipe heat. In summer we allow a rise of 5° with pipe heat, and higher still through the influence of the sun.”

The plant is certainly the picture of health, but we should attribute a fair share of the success attained to the use of the limestone. Some people, we know, say that the addition of limestone is unnecessary, but it must be borne in mind that lime is sometimes present in the loam used. We have seen them growing under both conditions, the result being much in favour of the use of limestone. It is not likely that they would grow so persistently upon limestone rocks in a wild state were it not beneficial to them. And while upon the subject we would suggest to our readers the advisability of trying the effect of adding a little limestone to the compost of the Bornean *Cypripedium Sanderianum*. Few people succeed with it, and we believe that it grows in a district where limestone is found. Whether it grows actually upon limestone we are not sure, but the experiment is worth trying, and, in any case, little harm could result. We may add, in conclusion, that last year we received a fine flower of *C. Godefroyæ leucochilum* from R. H. Measures, Esq., The Woodlands, Streatham. It is certainly a very charming thing.

CYCNOCHES PENTADACTYLON.

Mr. E. S. Rand, of Pará, contributes an interesting note to the *Journal des Orchidées* (iv., p. 378) respecting this plant, which was figured in our last volume (p. 73, fig. 4). It is a native of the Upper Amazon, and is abundant round Teffé, though rarely of large size. A giant form, however, occurs at the upper part of the River Purus, whose pseudobulbs reach a height of three feet, whose racemes are two feet long, and bear from one hundred to two hundred flowers—all of them males. They are generally borne near the apex of the pseudobulb, and the females near the base; very rarely the two occur on the same inflorescence. The proportion of male to female flowers is enormous, being several thousands to one. Only two or rarely three flowers are borne on the female racemes. The flowers are very fragrant, having a strong vanilla-like perfume.