



THE

GARDENERS' CHRONICLE

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OF

HORTICULTURE AND ALLIED SUBJECTS.

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ever, supplies us with references to some of the original accounts relating to the gardens which still exist in the Record Office and elsewhere, and it is by the aid of these that it is proposed, in the following paper, to give, in a detailed form, a history of the palace gardens.

We naturally go back to the time of Wolsey in recalling the original wealth and splendour of the gardens, but we find them noticed at a very much earlier period. In the report of the Prior of the Knights Hospitallers in England to the Grand Master, in the year 1338, there is mentioned as belonging to the order a "camera" or mansion-house, "gardens and a dove-cot" at Hampton. This mansion-house, Mr. Law has shown, with great probability, stood on the site of Wolsey's palace. We hear little further of the gardens until the commencement of the sixteenth century, when we read of the house being still inhabited by the order, that it had gardens, and that it was occasionally visited by members of the royal family and high ecclesiastical functionaries. One of the royal personages who visited the mansion in the early years of the sixteenth century was Elizabeth of York. She came here, history tells us, "to recruit her health," for the air of Hampton, her physicians agreed, was the best air which could be procured within an easy distance of London. On this visit it is probable that she spent much of her time in the gardens, and we may picture to ourselves the Dowager Queen sitting with her maids in the Rose and Honeysuckle-covered arbours (these were common features in the gardens of those days), or resting under the Pear and Apple trees of the orchard.

In the year 1514—the year in which Cardinal Wolsey's tenancy began—the history of the palace really commences. "No sooner," we are told by Mr. Ernest Law, "did that famous ecclesiastic enter into the possession of the place than he began with characteristic energy to plan the erection of a vast and sumptuous edifice, and surround it with gardens and parks, which were to be an appanage in every way worthy of the princely residence he was projecting." The land which Wolsey bought for his palace, gardens, and park consisted of some 2000 acres, and on this land, in the south-west corner, was situated the old manor-house. Immediately around the house he laid out the gardens and orchards (which he separated by brick walls*), and outside these, to the north-east, he laid out his two great parks. The accounts of expenses incurred for laying out these gardens, which were rendered by Wolsey's head gardener to the clerk of works, are still preserved in the Record Office, but they throw very little light on the plan of the gardens at that time. There are, however, many curious entries for wages of the gardeners employed and for implements used. Some of these entries refer to the shovels, spades, barrows, seeds, and even to the "plants" bought "for the use of my lord's garthing." The head gardener employed was John Chapman—one of the most celebrated gardeners of his time.† The accounts, which were rendered fortnightly, are all signed by him in a very clear hand. This circumstance shows that the gardeners of that time were taken from a superior class. The expenses in 1515 averaged 80s. per fortnight, but this amount was sometimes expanded by the

addition of women to the ordinary staff of labourers, for weeding in the "old garden."*

Although these accounts throw but little light on the manner in which the gardens were laid out, we gain a fair idea as to what they were like at this period from the following lines in the metrical life of Wolsey written by Cavendish:—

"My galleries were fayre, both large and longe,
To walk in them when that it liked me best;
My gardens sweet enclosed with walles strong,
Embanked with benches to sit and take my reste;
The knottis so enknotted it cannot be expressed,
With arbours and alleys so pleasant and so dulce
The pestilent airs with flavours to repulse."

Here we have a description of the style of gardening in vogue in England in the opening years of the sixteenth century—the gardens secured by high walls like those described by Chaucer in the *Romaunt of the Rose*: the grass banks some 3 feet high placed all around the walls on which one might sit and rest; the "knottis" or beds in which plants were laid out in different patterns, somewhat like those in our modern so-called carpet-beds; the arbours† or little summer-houses, and the alleys made of trellis-work over which twined or crept the Vine, Rose, and Honeysuckle, and above all, the sweet-scented flowers, which must have made the gardens of that time and of Elizabeth so delightful. In such a garden, we are informed by his biographer, Cavendish, Wolsey used to walk towards evening, "and read his evensong and other divine service with his chaplain." This old garden of Wolsey was situated to the south of the base-court and probably covered the plot of ground now known as the Pond Garden. An orchard is also mentioned in Wolsey's accounts. This was probably situated on the plot of ground afterwards known as the "Ould Orchard," now known as the Wilderness.

Not many years passed before Cardinal Wolsey was banished by Henry VIII. to Esher, and he had to give up the palace and gardens to the king. This was in 1529, and immediately the king gave orders "for enlarging and improving the palace and its surroundings." It was not, however, till 1530 that any large alterations were made in the gardens. In the early part of that year a large number of labourers were employed for "bringinge the earth and manure" to the Privy Orchard.‡ A number of orchard trees were then planted, and under them were set "sixteen bushels of Strawberry roots."§ In planting-out the trees little spaces appear to have been left here and there, which were freely open to the sun. In the centre of each of these open spaces was fixed a "brassy sundial" and seven of these are entered in the accounts as having been bought for this purpose of a "clockmaker of Westmynster."||

(To be continued.)

PINUS LARICIO.

So much has been said in these columns of late years respecting the Corsican Pine and its near allies (see especially Dec. 15, 1883, Jan. 5, and Feb. 16, 1884), that it is unnecessary now to do more than refer the reader to them. In the course of these articles mention was made of the fine tree near the Kew Green entrance gateway to the Royal Gardens at Kew. The tree, of which we now give an illustration (fig. 97), forms a conspicuous object from a distance, though, unfortunately, its leader has been destroyed. According to a statement of the late veteran Curator, John Smith (*primus*), in the *Garden*, the tree in question was brought from the South of Europe and planted, in 1814, by Mr. R. A. Salisbury, a noted botanist of his time. In 1825 the tree was 20 feet high, and in 1885 it had attained a height of 88 feet, and was 12 feet in girth at the base. A cone and a shoot are shown on p. 705. The present height of the tree is 91 feet; spread of branches, 60 feet; and stem girth at 4 feet from the ground, 9 feet.

* Chapter House Accounts, C. 2. f. 695, 811, &c. This mention of the "old garden" shows that Wolsey did not entirely alter the surroundings of the old manor-house.

† In the accounts preserved in the Record Office (c. 2), is the following item relating to the arbour of Wolsey: "for twigsers to bind the arbour, viid."

‡ Chapter House Accounts, C. 2. f. 422.

§ *Ibid.*, f. 423.

|| *Ibid.*, f. 401.

NEW OR NOTEWORTHY PLANTS.

CATASETUM GARNETTIANUM, Rolfe, n. sp.

This little gem of a *Catasetum* is now flowering in the Kew collection, the whole plant being under 6 inches high, and its wants seem to be amply provided for within the limits of a shallow pan of about 3 inches diameter, in which it is suspended. It was presented in February of the present year by P. F. Garoett, Esq., of Aigburth, near Liverpool, with the information that it was collected in some locality in the vicinity of the River Amazon. It is allied to *C. barbatum*, Lindl., and in general aspect is much like a miniature edition of this plant. The pseudobulbs in the imported plants were conical, 2 inches long, and with five black rings; but in the two growths since made they are compressed-ovate, 1 inch long by half an inch broad, and bearing three leaves. It may, however, be noted, that while the new pseudobulbs are not fully developed, they are strong enough for each to throw up a raceme almost as strong as one sent from the wild habitat. The leaves are lanceolate, 4 inches long by 6 to 8 lines broad, acute, and a little undulate. The erect peduncle equals the leaves, and has four sheathing bracts below the flowers, while the flowering bracts are ovate; one raceme bears seven flowers, the other four, while the wild raceme appears to have had nine; the pedicels three-quarters of an inch long, the diameter of the flower, from the tip of the upper sepal, 1½ inch, and the colour very light green, heavily blotched with dark chocolate-brown, the blotches somewhat transversely arranged, and the lip white. Sepals lanceolate-linear, acute, 10 lines long, concave. Petals similar, but slightly convex, and a little reflexed. These are subparallel with the upper sepal, as in *C. callosum*, while the lateral sepals make an angle of about 90° with each other. Lip three-quarters of an inch long, linear, from a somewhat broader base, the apex divided into about seven somewhat diverging bristles, a similar number of shorter ones on either side near the base, and some half-dozen others on the margin below the middle. A blunt conical spur is situated near the middle, and a strong curved horn a quarter of an inch high on basal angle. Under side of lip faint green, with a few reddish-purple spots; column light green, antennae slender, subparallel. It is a singular and very elegant little plant. *R. A. Rolfe.*

TRICHOSMA SUAVIS, Lindl.

This name being accepted and well known in the gardening world I retain it, though the plant has no genuine marks of distinction from *Eria*, as Dr. Griffith, myself, and finally Dr. Lindley stated (see contributions to *Indian Orchidology*, ii, *Eria*, § VI.). The dark brown lines on the white ground of the lip remind one of *Cœlogyne*, though a side view of the flower shows the most distinct *Eria* or *Maxillaria* shape. Dr. Lindley himself at first called it a *Cœlogyne*, and proposed his genus *Trichosma* later, cancelling the original name himself, in accordance with my opinions.

I have now at hand a little wonder of beauty, a trilabella, as I call it, a tripetalia would likewise deserve the name of peloria. If the word peloria be used one does not know which of the two, sepals or petals, is intended. The three petals have the same colour and the keels of the lip, but there is the single mark of distinction that they are not trifid, but entire.

I have to thank for this most agreeable surprise our enthusiastic orchidist, Mr. Fred. Tautz, Goldhawk Road, London, whose collection is so rich in rare and well-grown Orchids. *H. G. Rehb. f.*

CYPRIPEDIUM INSIGNE (Wall.) SANDER & SON
(Hort. Sand.)

Baron von Schroder had the kindness to send me this strikingly beautiful novelty, which was imported with other varieties by Mr. F. Sander, and dedicated by him to Mrs. Sander, a great lover of Orchids. It is very beautiful; the odd sepal has the upper part white, the white colour descending on

* Chapter House Accounts, C. 2. f. 721.

† John Chapman was first employed by Wolsey as gardener of his palace at Kingston. He was then (in 1515) removed to Hampton Court, and very soon after was promoted to the position of head gardener. When Henry VIII. took possession of the palace he was again promoted—this time to the position of the "king's head gardener," with a salary of 12*l.* a year. He died about the year 1540.

both sides on to the margin. The lower part is light yellowish-green, with a few small brown spots on each side of moderately dark tint. The broad connate sepal is of a light yellow, with two very small brown spots at the base. Petals nearly undulate, rather broad and blunt, sulphur-coloured. Lip

thing like it before. It was kindly sent to me by Mr. Horsman, of Colchester, whose name it justly bears.

Its general floral character may be indicated by stating its narrow, and yet not too narrow, shape. The odd sepal is blunt, cuneate-oblong, and the

ZYGOPETALUM MARGINATUM, *Rehb. f.*

A plant of this old but apparently rare species is now flowering in the Kew collection, having been sent from New Grenada by Patin. It belongs to the section Warszewiczella, and is also known as *W. marginata*. It grows 6 inches high, and its narrowly cuneate-oblong leaves are flabellately arranged, as in this section of the genus. Its flowers are solitary, large, and fragrant, the colour white, with a broad band of maroon-purple round the lip, a few streaks of the same colour on the curiously toothed disc, and three irregular violet lines in front of the same. The incurved side-lobes just meet at their tips, which is one of the characters by which it may be distinguished from the closely allied *Z. velatum*. It was introduced in 1853 by Messrs. Jackson, of Kingston, and is described in these columns at p. 647 of that year, as *Warrea quadrata*, by Dr. Lindley. It is also well figured at t. 4766 of the *Botanical Magazine*, under the same name, Sir William Hooker having obtained a plant from the same source. *R. A. Rolfe.*

DISA CULTURE.

Now that some of the rarer Disas are flowering in our gardens, a few notes as to a general plan of culture for the different sections, and especially of the grassy-leaved ones, including *graminifolia* and *D. lacera*, figured in the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, p. 664, may be of use in helping to secure a better understanding of these beautiful plants. For years I have grown Cape terrestrials, and have never lost an opportunity of getting information from my numerous South African correspondents as to their habits and surroundings in their native home. The result of these experiences conclusively prove to me that before success can be attained with certainty, the genus *Disa*, for cultural purposes, must be divided into two distinct sections.

Section 1 may be called the *grandiflora* division, as that species is best known to us; under it come *D. uniflora*, commonly known as *grandiflora*, *D. racemosa* (illustrated in the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, May 12, 1888), *D. venosa*, which I have now secured after years of steady endeavour; *D. sagittalis*, *D. cornuta*, *D. crassicornis*, *D. polygonoides*, and others of like habit. These are leafy plants inhabiting more or less marshy places, and they will all thrive grown together with *D. grandiflora* (*uniflora*), with some little differences which the following observations as to their mode of growth may point out:—*D. grandiflora*, *D. racemosa*, *D. venosa*, and *D. sagittalis* are strictly evergreen, and are always growing either above or below ground; they increase by the old tubers producing new ones, and also by leafy growths borne on stolons or running underground stems. These require keeping moist all the year with but little variation. Some time in October is the best for repotting them, and the material used, peat, sphagnum moss, crocks, and charcoal, and some think added loam and fibre beneficial.

D. crassicornis, *D. cornuta*, and *D. polygonoides* have no stolons, but perpetuate themselves by direct increase from tuber to tuber after the manner of *Satyrium*, or by seed—a mode of propagation which is a safe and certain means of guarding against destruction to the old stock, which is much resorted to by South African terrestrial Orchids in their wild state. *D. crassicornis*, one of the handsomest and sweetest of the genus, grows on the Boschberg, and in other places, at an altitude of over 4000 feet, principally in loamy soil, and in moist shady situations, where it frequently gets ice and snow about it. Under cultivation I find it take kindly to turfy-yellow loam and a little sphagnum moss, and this may be one of the essentials to its good culture.

D. polygonoides and *cornuta* grow in boggy, sandy peat, and these two last lose their foliage after flowering, and for a time should have a limited supply of water, but not be kept quite dry for the new tubers immediately begin to grow after

*



FIG. 97.—THE CORSICAN PINE, PINUS LARICIO, AT KEW. (SEE P. 692.)

darker sulphur-coloured. Staminate bright yellow, with the knob of an orange colour. Peduncle and bract light green. This is decidedly a most remarkable plant, and a fresh ornament to the collection of Baron von Schroder. *H. G. Rehb. f.*

CYPRIPEDIUM INSIGNE (*Wall.*), var *HORSMANIANUM*, *n. var.*

A remarkably elegant variety. I never saw any-

upper part is quite white, the lower like the remainder of the flower, has likewise the usual colours. The lower sepals are narrow, oblong-ligulate, acute. The petals are directed forwards, and are spreading at the top. The lip is very remarkable in having a beak in the middle of the mouth, and rather low side-partitions. In these days of *Cypripediums* it might prove exceedingly valuable for hybridisation. *H. G. Rehb. f.*