

green leather back &
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G295
1854

C. J. Braine
Abbotsley
Newton Abbot

THE

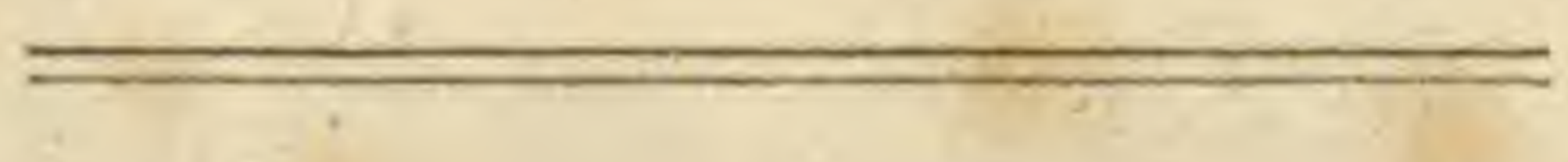
GARDENERS' CHRONICLE

AND

AGRICULTURAL GAZETTE

FOR

1854.



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1854.

Societies.

LINNEAN, Feb. 21. — The President in the chair. Specimens were presented of *Ophioglossum lusitanicum*, from the island of Guernsey, by the discoverer, Mr. G. Wolsey; and a small collection of Ferns from Moreton Bay, by R. Wakefield, Esq. Mr. Joseph Robson, of Whitehaven, was elected an associate. The following papers were read:—1. "Notes on some Ferns in the Wallichian Herbarium," by Mr. Thomas Moore. The Wallichian species to which this paper referred were the *Prionopteris Farquhariana* (Wall. Cat. 184), *Sphaeropteris Hookeriana* (Wall. Cat. 775), and *Davallia stipellata* (Wall. Cat. 260). The first of these, which appeared to be unknown both to Presl and Fée, was stated to be the *Matonia pectinata* (R. Brown in Wallich's "Plantæ Asiaticæ Rariores"). In enquiring which of these names had precedence, the author referred to *Sphaeropteris barbata*, as an analogous case, which also occurs in the "Plantæ Asiaticæ," where precedence is claimed for the herbarium name of Dr. Wallich, dating 1823, and catalogued in M.S., in 1828, over the name *Peranema*, of Don, legitimately published in 1825. This claim, strengthened as it is by the general adoption by botanists of Dr. Wallich's names, led the author to the conclusion that they were entitled to precedence; and according to this view, *Prionopteris* must supersede *Matonia*. *Sphaeropteris Hookeriana*, Wall., was stated to be undoubtedly the *Dicalpe aspidioides*, Blume, distinguishable from true *Sphaeropteris* by having sessile not stipitate sori. Restoring the Wallichian specific name, this was called *Dicalpe Hookeriana*. The *Davallia stipellata*, Wall., was identified with the *Aspidium nodosum*, Blume, the *Acrophorus nodosus*, Presl, and doubtfully with the *Monachosorum davallioides*, Kze. The fructification of this Fern, consisting of small heaps of spore cases at the apices of simple venules within the margin, and covered by roundish scale-like indusia attached by the base only, it was argued that it could not properly be associated with the *Davalliæ*, but should rank along with *Cystopteris* in a subsection of *Aspidiæ*, connecting that group with the *Davalliæ* through the genus *Microlepia*. The genera *Acrophorus* and *Leucostegia* of Presl, of the latter of which Presl himself says "Acrophoro affinissimum est," were held to be too closely allied to be kept apart, and the author therefore proposed to combine them, applying to the united group Presl's prior name of *Acrophorus*. The following species were communicated:—*Acr. stipellatus* (*A. nodosus*, Presl); *Acr. immersus* (*Leucostegia*, Presl); *Acr. chærophyllus* (*Davallia*, Wall., *D. pulchra*, Don); *Acr. membranulosus* (*Davallia*, Wall.); *Acr. affinis* (*Leucostegia*, J. Sm.); *Acr. hispidus* (*Davallia*, Heward); *Acr. parvulus* (*Davallia*, Wall.); *Acr. jamaicensis* (*Davallia*, Hook.). The attention of the author had been directed to the instance above referred to while prosecuting an attempt to arrange the genera of Ferns, so as to avoid alike the modern extreme of needless subdivision and the antiquated one of inconvenient aggregation. 2. "Note on the genus *Ancistrocladus* of Wallich," by G. H. K. Thwaites, Esq. Mr. Thwaites observed, that having had opportunities of examining the structure of the flowers of *Ancistrocladus Vahl*, as well as its fruit in various stages of development, he had been enabled to arrive at a more correct knowledge of their structure than appears to have been previously within the reach of botanists. The circumstance of the fruit in this genus being surmounted by the enlarged segments of the calyx had led to its being referred to the several families, *Combretaceæ*, *Malpighiaceæ*, and *Dipteraceæ*, from all which he stated it to be essentially different in its albuminous seeds; and he pointed out the *Symplocæ* as a group with which it seemed to associate better, agreeing therewith in its undivided exstipulate leaves, in the character of its inflorescence, in its persistent calyx, in its imbricated calyx and corolla, in the stamens being adherent to the base of the corolla, in its inferior ovary, albuminous seeds, and cylindrical [clavate] embryo. From the *Symplocæ*, however, it was stated to differ in its scandent habit, in its calycine segments becoming enlarged, in its solitary erect ovule, and in the peculiar cerebriform structure of its copious albumen. With the *Myristicaceæ* and *Anonaceæ* *Ancistrocladus* seemed also to have some affinity, its young ovule recalling to mind that of *Myristica*, and the embryo not being very dissimilar in the two genera; whilst the scandent habit and uncinatè ramuli give to it a considerable resemblance to *Artabotrys*. Mr. Thwaites concluded with a detailed generic character, partly drawn up from fresh specimens of *A. Vahl*, a plant which was stated to be abundant in the warmer districts of Ceylon, and owing to its abundant increase, by its roots, forming a very troublesome weed. Its Cingalese name is *Gonawel* or *Gonapitanwel*. The paper was accompanied by drawings illustrating the structure of the flowers and fruit of *A. Vahl*.

Notices of Books.

School Botany and Vegetable Physiology; or, the Rudiments of Botanical Science. By John Lindley, Ph.D., F.R.S. A new edition, 8vo. Bradbury and Evans. Pp. 182.

THE favourable reception given to this work by the public has enabled the proprietors to increase largely the matter contained in the present edition, without augmenting the price. Between 60 and 70 woodcuts of

common plants, and about the same number of new pages, have been added, among the latter of which will be found a chapter entitled "Physiological Aphorisms, or the Rudiments of Practical Physiology." The former editions were confined to Systematical Botany, physiology finding no place in them. That deficiency is now supplied. The foundation of the aphorisms was the author's "Outlines of the First Principles of Horticulture," a little work which has been out of print for many years; but they have been curtailed, much corrected, and adapted to the purposes of general students, who wish to become acquainted with the common phenomena of vegetable life, rather than with their special application. The additions to the systematical part of the work consist of the distinctive characters of a certain number of common plants, to be met with everywhere, either in gardens or cultivated fields.

New Plants.

48. *CYPRIPEDIUM VILLOSUM.*

C. acule, foliis immaculatis scapo villosulo longioribus, spathâ carinatâ, petalis inæquilateris spatulatis undulatis ciliatis politis apice excisis, sepalo supremo emarginato antice oblongo apiculato, stamine sterili cuneato mucronulato dorso tuberculato pubescente, columnâ petalisque basi barbatis, ovario crinito.

This fine addition to an interesting genus was lately exhibited to the Horticultural Society, when it received a Silver Knightian medal. Mr. T. Lobb found it wild in the province of Moulmein, at an elevation of 5000 feet above the sea, and sent it to Messrs. Veitch, who, we believe, are its sole possessors. It most resembles *C. insigne*, differing more especially in the following particulars:—The scape is shorter than the leaves, and shaggy, with long purple hairs; the petals are singularly unequal sided, the posterior half being twice as broad as the anterior, and much undulated; they are, moreover, notched at the point, as if a piece had been struck out by a circular punch; the lower sepal is apiculate, and not merely obtuse. There is a general resemblance in colour, but the upper sepal, instead of being decorated with dark circular spots, has merely a deeply discoloured set of veins along the middle, and the petals, which look as if varnished, are a rich warm brown on the upper or posterior half, but green on the lower half, with a deep rich brown line of separation.

Garden Memoranda.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S GARDEN, TURNHAM GREEN.

—The fine specimen of *Dendrobium speciosum*, which this garden possesses, is now in flower; but not nearly so profusely as it was last year. Nevertheless, owing to the large size and rude health of the plant, together with the great beauty of the few fine spikes of flowers that at present ornament it, it must be regarded as an object of unusual interest. Among the more conspicuous of other Orchids in bloom were *Cœlogyne cristata* literally covered with handsome white blossoms, stained in the lip with yellow; the White Butterfly Plant (*Phalenopsis amabilis*); and the well-known *Phaius grandifolius*, which when well flowered, as this was, is still one of the most striking and useful plants we possess.

In the greenhouse adjoining the Orchid-house were some charming pots of Crocuses, more especially those filled with *Queen Victoria* and *Sir Walter Scott*. The latter is a very fine flower, white striped and feathered with lilac, and about as large as a small Tulip. Well-bloomed masses of the finer kinds of Crocuses, we need scarcely say, are extremely showy at this season of the year, and they are easily obtained by potting them in autumn, and wintering them in a cold frame, merely placing them in a little heat a short time previously to their being wanted in flower.

The *Acacia* trees, for so they have now become, in the great conservatory, are beginning to be very gay. *A. cyanophylla* is now in full beauty, and several others are ready to succeed it; *A. Riceana* is getting past. These are large-growing kinds, which are suitable only for a house like this. For pots, *A. linearis*, a specimen of which was in full flower, is very suitable. The scarlet and white *Brugmansias*, which have recently been cut "hard in" and cleaned, are again loaded with blossoms, and *Habrothamnus fasciculatus*, and *Polygala gracilis*, are also both in full flower, together with the fine group of *Camellias* near the east end of the house. Among the latter, *C. elegans* is by far the most striking, the multitudes of large blossoms with which it is furnished being just in perfection. The little scarlet *Azalea obtusa* makes a handsome plant for a shelf, and it forms a good succession to the variety of *A. squamata*, mentioned at p. 118, whose distinguishing characteristics are the delicacy and transparency of its blossoms and its habit of flowering naturally, *i. e.* without forcing, several weeks before any other Indian *Azalea*. On this account, therefore, it must be looked upon as an acquisition.

The *Rose* trees have all been moved out of the *Rose* house, and transplanted in Messrs. Hartley's conservatory, in which beds have been prepared for them, and where they are expected to succeed much better than they have hitherto done. Climbing sorts have been placed against the pillars, which, together with the roof, may thus be rendered ornamental. The *Rose* house, we understand, is to be converted into an orchard-house, which is to be devoted in part to proving of *Vines* and *Figs* in pots.

The alterations in the *Arboretum* are now completed; the *Grass* is being mown and the borders dug and put in order for summer. The *Rhododendron* beds, which have been altered, have not been wholly replanted with

the same kinds of *Rhododendrons* they formerly contained; they have received some important additions in the shape of some of the newer and higher coloured varieties, into which has been infused, by means of skilful cross-breeding, a habit of flowering sufficiently late to be out of the reach of early frosts, which, we need not say, spoil the blossoms. Many of these, we learn, have been kindly presented to the Society by Messrs. Dancer, of Fulham, and Mr. John Waterer.

In the orchard department, pruning forms the principal occupation at present. Another sash has been added to the length of Cottam and Hallen's Peach frame, and its hitherto open ends, we believe, are also to be shut up. Close ends formed no part of the original design; but owing to the short length of the frame in the present case allowing cold winds to sweep through it, they will doubtless be found to be an improvement.

The effects of the late frosts have been severely felt in the kitchen garden. Even Brussels Sprouts in some instances have been injured. Those that had not been topped have been found to stand best. Among Broccolies, *Snow's Spring White* has, upon the whole, stood best. *Hammond's White* has been all killed, and of *Cock's* only a plant here and there remains. Spring cropping is now being proceeded with. Some Potatoes have been planted according to the plan mentioned in our Number for Feb. 18, p. 101, with a view to further test its value as a preventive of disease. Little ridges of earth have been left between the rows for the purpose of covering them when the time stated for performing that operation shall have arrived, and every pains will be taken to give the plan a fair trial.

FLORICULTURE.

PANSIES IN POTS.—My three-light box is again becoming gay with these delightful spring flowers. *Duke of Norfolk*, *Sir Philip Sidney*, *Disraeli*, *Ophir*, *Robert Burns*, *Euphemia*, *France Cycole*, *Mrs. Beck*, *Duke of Perth*, *Climax*, and others, already arrest the attention of all who visit my little garden. Those who have never tried to cultivate the Pansy in this way have little idea what a profusion of really gay flowers is produced by this plant during the whole of the early months; and with proper attention they will blossom in good character till the latter part of May. As regards cultivation, little need be said; for the Pansy is not difficult to manage. Plants for early flowering should be potted up from the open ground in October. If the weather is open in the last week in January, or the first week in February, begin to repot generally, using soil consisting of good decomposed turfy loam, rotten manure, a little leaf-mould, and coarse sand, the latter in proportion to the nature of the loam. The soil should not be pressed hard with the hand; no water should be given for a day or two after potting. Before, as well as after this operation, the plants must be kept well up to the glass. They should have from two to six shoots, or strong leaders; and to keep them to these chosen shoots, a number of small ones must from time to time be removed. These cuttings answer the double purpose of strengthening the main shoots, and producing a stock of young plants, which will supply the place of the old ones when worn out. Keep the frames in which they are placed open whenever the weather is favourable, pulling the lights back, or tilting them up; maintain the plants in a growing state by watering them as often as they require it, going over them for this purpose every day. Plants that have several shoots should be tied into shape, placing the centre-branch upright in the middle, and the remainder at equal distances all round; but the plant must be shaped according to the number of shoots: three leading branches are sufficient if cut blooms only are required. Another advantage is, that the same plants, from the succession of bloom they produce, will answer the double purpose of exhibiting in pots or stands of cut flowers. After the potting, as above recommended, has taken place, takes the earliest opportunity at which the ground is in a fit state, to plant out any stock not required to bloom under glass, or plants that have been wintered in stores, &c., which will bloom through May or June, and produce a stock of good healthy cuttings. By following the simple and inexpensive treatment just recommended, I am sure that those who take the little trouble that it entails will not fail to be gratified by a fine display of bloom, which, from its long continuance, will most certainly afford much gratification. *E. B.*

THE AURICULA.—About the middle of this month, if the weather continue as fine as it is at present, the trusses will be sufficiently forward to select those intended for exhibition. Seven pips are the lowest number allowed by our metropolitan societies; therefore select the most promising, containing that number and upwards. Those with round buds, as nearly of a size as possible, the truss also round and compact, should be particularly selected, and if there are any monster pips among them with large oblong tubes or other deformities, remove them while young. At this stage of their growth, care must be taken in watering that none be allowed to fall into the tubes or pipe, if it happen to be exposed, as is the case with some varieties; for although the buds be so young, the meal of the eye may be formed, and if so the water will run the meal over the ground-colour, and when the blossom is expanded it will be found dull and unfit for exhibition. The mealy-grass varieties require a little extra attention, for their beauty is much increased by preserving