THE GARDENERS’ CHRONICLE.

A Weekly Illustrated Journal

OF

HORTICULTURE AND ALLIED SUBJECTS.

VOL. VII.—NEW SERIES.

JANUARY TO JUNE, 1877.

LONDON:
41, WELLINGTON STREET, COVENT GARDEN, W.C.
1877.
as a well-flowered form of Mr. Day's Plectoreums. My wild-grown specimen, I find, has one of those characteristic flowers of C. villous, Lindl., but it has many points of difference. The bracts are much longer, covering the basal quarters of the stem, and it is both taller and broader. The peduncle is covered with dark blotches, which I never saw in C. villous, and the flowers have all the blackness of a young C. purpureus; the sepals are much broader at their bases, and quite white, while the inferior sepals of C. villous is very see red in the bud. The flower is quite white, and the lip has not the long lateral horns of C. villous, and the petals are broader. All these points are to be observed in the stem and base of the plant, and in its form and disposition. The bracts are very nicely marked with numerous half-moon-shaped blotches, and the flower is less slender and more globular than that of C. purpureus. The lip is a pale pinkish tint. Some of the leaves are twisted in the centre, others are "interrupted," the blade not being continuous throughout. (Williams.)

NOVELTIES.

Among the plants to be sent out this spring, are the following—

Dendrostaeva davalliana Youngs.—This fine new garden Fern comes to us from Australia. It is no doubt very nearly related to the old Dicksonia davalliana, Strophoglossum hirsutum of C. villous, Lindl., but it has many points of difference. The bracts are much longer, covering the basal quarters of the stem, and it is both taller and broader. The peduncle is covered with dark blotches, which I never saw in C. villous, and the flowers have all the blackness of a young C. purpureus; the sepals are much broader at their bases, and quite white, while the inferior sepals of C. villous is very see red in the bud. The flower is quite white, and the lip has not the long lateral horns of C. villous, and the petals are broader. All these points are to be observed in the stem and base of the plant, and in its form and disposition. The bracts are very nicely marked with numerous half-moon-shaped blotches, and the flower is less slender and more globular than that of C. purpureus. The lip is a pale pinkish tint. Some of the leaves are twisted in the centre, others are "interrupted," the blade not being continuous throughout. (Williams.)

Cryanum (Crotallum) paradoxe.—A narrow-leaved form, with short footstalks, purplish in the middle, paler at either end. The blade of the leaves measures to 10 inches in length by 1 inch in breadth. It is quite distinct from the leafy point. They are at first green, but subsequently become variegated with yellow or cream-coloured stripes and blotches. The plant is a most vigorous grower of the young, and the mature plant is of good growth. It is quite hardy and will bloom. The leaves are much smaller and lighter in colour. The plant is not yet to be determined, but the name given is to be regarded as merely provisional. It is a very elegant foliage plant, suitable when small for table decoration. The stem of a deep olive green, speckled with white spots; the leaves are dark green, glaucous, twice pinnately divided, with a single lobe at the end; the plant are about eight in number on each side of the midrib, each one being divided nearly to the base into linear, minutely saw-toothed and spine-pointed segments. The younger leaves are more finely cut than those first formed. The plant is a native of China.

Cryanum fasciatum.—A bold, broad leaved form. Leaves 9—10 by 4—5 inches. Leathesbaut about an inch long, brownish in the centre, paler at either end. The blade of the leaf is inverly egg-shaped, slightly rounded at the base, of a living, green colour, traversed by bright yellow veins, and marked with a few irregular spots and blotches. It is a fine variegated kind, of bold habit. (Williams.)

Cryanum campiphyllus.—A very narrow leaved form. Leaves 1—2 inches, green in the centre, paler at both ends. Leaves 6—9 inches long by 1 inch wide, in form linear oblong, dilated at the base, with a concave upper surface. The leaf of the leaf is obtuse or shortly point. The leaves are variously twisted and curved. (Williams.)

Cryanum falcatum.—A form of long habit. Leaves 15—18 inches by 2—3 inches. Leatlesbaut 1 inch long, pink in the centre, paler at each end. The leaves are strap-shaped, dilated and rounded at the base, sword-shaped or sickle-shaped, with a dark purple midrib and margins, and with irregular blotches of yellow. The under surface is pale purple with green veins. (Williams.)

ABNEY HALL, CHEadle.

At any season of the year a visit to the extensive gardens of the Duke of Devonshire, at Abney Hall, near Stockport, the seat of Sir James Watts, Knot, will be found to be one of peculiar interest and pleasure, for the number and beauty of the high-class characters of the plants under cultivation ensures a fine display of choice subjects at almost any time. It was my good fortune a few days ago to have the opportunity of spending some time at Abney Hall, with Mr. Mackellar, and from a few observations made at the time perhaps a small notice may be acceptable to your readers, and of sufficient interest to find a place in your pages. The garden stands on the eastern side of the Bank Top, near the Chelford turnpike, and on the borders of Cheshire, about 6 miles in a southward direction from Manchester. The grounds, which are the most admired in Cheshire, are picturesque in the extreme, and the gay and varied appearance, contain a number of very fine specimens of Conifere and other shrubs of an ornamental character, among which special mention must be made of an avenue of Carpinius Lawsoniana, and though there in great variety of the latter, being a similar habit and appearance, yet on a closer inspection and comparison it will be found that great variety exists among them, the habit some being upright, others spreading, but all lovely, and differing so much that it seems scarcely credible that such different forms should sprout up from the seeds of probably the same cone.

The garden is laid out in an ornamental structure adjoining the mansion, and in it are planted out some of the finest specimens of Camellias that are to be seen anywhere in the neighbourhood of Manchester or even in Lancashire. Here the gardener, with a little judgment, has grown these fine plants, and at the present time the blooms may be counted by the hundred. Two grand plants of indica, about 20 feet, are likewise the subject of admiration. The old plants are very strong, and flowers fine and numerous. Here also are large numbers of Storey, with flowers of fine form, of a deep rose colour, not unlike the old rose. Cup of Beauty, La Reine, Jubilare, and tides, are also represented by fine well-blooming plants; whilst amongst those of a larger scarlet type mention may be made of red Jewels, which is in great request and abundance, and one of named Triumph, the flowers of which are of an immense size.

The conservatory, from a small portion of the roof in the great hall, gives a view of a part of our range, and from that we come to a fine range of wineries, and just adjoining these is also the Peach-house. The Vines in the early house had broken very strong, with foliage good and pleasurable. Here the vines are likewise already set. The number of bunches, and the size of the greater part of them, would seem to indicate that here again Mr. Mackellar will be amply repaid for the fine care and attention bestowed upon this part of his labours. In the stone houses, of course, there were many plants of an ornamental character, whilst for blooming purposes a quantity of Eucharis magnifica is grown, and this winter there has been an abundance of bloom—twenty or one on two of these plants will give some idea of their size and vigour. Here also were two beautiful species of Acanthus, and one of Acantus, measuring about 4 feet by 4. The heads of bloom were thickly set all over the plants, coming in bunches having developed from twenty to thirty flowers. These are two plants that it would be difficult to match. Calathus are grown in great quantity for cut flowers; about ten or twelve bulbs are planted in a 10-inch pot, and in their season are certainly a sight worth looking upon. A number of plants of C. Veitchii among those of C. vestita adds interest and charm to the display. In this house and another adjoining it there are large specimens of a notably Dentrobdium moniliforme, a grand mass, and well flowered; demiflorum, 4 feet through, showing well in the conservatory; Eucharis magnifica is a very fine plant, the quantity of noble are also grown, and when in flower are used for the decoration of the conservatory. Some plant specimens of Yucca filamentosa variegates, as well as a quantity of smaller plants of the same species, are to be met with here, and are all very well.

A Risbons is a speciality devoted to Azaleas, and in a half-trained, half-shot form are a splendid lot of plants of very large size and in robust health. In the course of a couple of months these will be a picture. I have been a little behind the times, but here, the principal varieties of Heathc being in many cases plants 3 or 4 feet high, and as much through, whilst a number of half specimens are coming on very strong, and will flower this fall. I visited here also, the quantity of noble are also grown, and when in flower are used for the decoration of the conservatory. Some plant specimens of Yucca filamentosa variegates, as well as a quantity of smaller plants of the same species, are to be met with here, and are all very well.