Chrysanthemum Shows.

Chrysanthemum Shows, 1887.

During the first two weeks in November shows were held in the following cities: Boston, Philadelphia, New York, Orange N. J., Chicago, Baltimore, Indianapolis, Hartford Conn., New Haven Conn., Springfield Mass., Youngstown O., Memphis Tenn., Syracuse N. Y., Nashville Tenn., San Francisco, St. Joseph Mo., Providence R. I., Woonsocket R. I., Worcester Mass., Easton Pa., and Columbus, 0. In addition to these a large number of excellent displays have been made by individuals all over the country. It would therefore seem that "the chrysanthemum craze" is gaining considerable strength rather than waning. The lavish notices those exhibitions have received from the local press everywhere have certainly been of immense benefit to the whole trade.

Dates for Chrysanthemum Shows.

With one exception, all the chrysanthemum shows in the United States occurred the same week. This is unfortunate, because in cut flower classes where the distance between the cities is great, it is often the case, that all good growers could compete and attend the shows in person, if the dates could be so arranged as not to clash. It is the middle notice in the well known horticultural journals that the dates of chrysanthemum shows there cover a period from Nov. 3 to Dec. 5, and there are more set down than there are from Nov. 1 to 15. There are from 8 to 11 Mr. Wm. K. Harris says that all the best varieties are in their prime from the 8th until the 12th of November. There must be some way of retiring chrysanthemums in Europe, or the cultivators select those varieties which are predisposed to bloom late, to prolong the exhibiting season over a longer period than seems possible in this country. It would be a great accommodation to those actively engaged in the details of exhibiting of persons who wish to show, to have them distributed through the first three weeks in November. It will be well for all committee preparing schedules for next year to bear in mind that 1888 is the presidential election year, and if I am not in error the election is on the second Tuesday in November. Just what the effect of autocracy is in the zenith of her glory; and judging from past experience, a chrysanthemum show, no matter where it may be, will be flat, stale and unprofitable if it happens during election week, especially if the contest is close and the result in doubt for several days, as it was in 1884.

This is an age of progress. Would it not be a greater test of skill for the successful exhibitor to carry off the blue ribbon at a show in an off week, than when the flower is at its height? Growers and exhibitors should be consulted, as well as the committees on finance, before dates are fixed for next year's chrysanthemum shows.


Notes on the New York Chrysanthemum Show.

By WM. Palkoven.

The finest Japanese flower in the exhibition was J. Delea, dark velvety crimson, very full and double and seven inches across. Robert Botanically with broad pale white petals was eight inches across and the largest flower in the hall. Other fine Japanese flowers were Mrs. Langtry, white, six and one-half inches; Baron de Preilly, rose-purple, seven inches; Mrs. Wheeler, nankeen, six inches; Mrs. Frank Thompson, pink and silver, seven inches; Criterion, amber, six and one-half inches; Fair Maid of Guernsey, white, six and one-half inches; also Lord Byron, Dominations, Roseum superbun, Soleil Levant, Troubadour and Graffitiem. Among the best of the Chinese sorts were Nil Desperandum, Princess Teck, John Bradley, Jean d'Arc, Lord Alcicer, Culifordelli, Alfred Salter, Lord Wolseley, Jardin des Plantes, Baron Beust, E. P. Wilbur and Salter. Jean d'Arc was four inches across by three and one-half inches high in middle, and was a good average of the best of them. Anemone and pompom flowers were limited in number and contained nothing of much merit. Seedlings were not numerously represented, nor did they contain anything very desirable. One raised by David Rose and named Geo. Pratt, the judges considered the best seedling in the show. It is after the fashion of Hon. J. Welch but larger and not so bright. Julius Scharf showed several nice seedlings; conspicuous among them were C. J. Allen, Japanese, semi-double, sulphur-yellow, six inches across; Mrs. George J. Tyson, Japanese, full double, half quilled, large, rose-purple; and James G. Blane, loosely incurved, bold, crimson-brown and gold.

The chrysanthemum bouquets were too stiff and the flowers in them too much packed together. The baskets of chrysanthemums needed heavier dressing than light-frothed ferns. One basket was dressed with sprays of hemlock and Thunberg's spiraea. I use shoots of Berberis aquifolia (Mabonia aquifolia) for chrysanthemums, trilomas, and other day-lilies, and other hardy flowers, and know of nothing better.

Corsage bouquets were made of roses or lily of the valley and violets. Now, if there is one thing more than another I like about a bouquet of any sort it is "finish." But when I find the stems of
The nomenclature of this genus is very clear and simple, yet in cultivation we find many cypripeds wrongly named, or the specific name is omitted and only that of the variety used, which is very misleading in any case where there are not a great many kinds to be considered. Not only in cultivation do we find these mistakes, but even several authors of books, not being thoroughly acquainted with this genus, have made serious errors. These are especially dangerous, as people searching for information are misled rather than correctly instructed. Amateurs who are forming collections have great trouble in getting some of the varieties true to name. Frequently after growing a tiny little plant which has been purchased for a large sum of money, for three or four years, it turns out to be a quite a common kind, of which he already has a stock or does not want at all. Again, in some cases a rare and valuable plant turns out of a lot that has been purchased for a common species with a small outlay only. Several species have also synonyms, or a variety was considered as a species by some botanist, and later on when the name came to be changed, in a good many instances it would be grown under the old name.

The history of some species is also obscure or unreliable, owing sometimes to circumstances which, if they were known, would make quite a stir. The native country of all the species is known, but the exact locality only of the old kinds. When a new cypriped is discovered, we hear it comes from the East Indies, and we have to be satisfied with that. Nor can we blame much the discoverer of a new species for keeping secret the exact spot where it was found. The searching for new kinds and collecting is very expensive and dangerous business, and therefore when a man discovers a new species which has cost him a great deal of time, money and exposure to danger, he is justified in endeavoring to enjoy the benefits as well as the troubles, and in preventing, if possible, other men from reaping the harvest of his labor. As to hybrids, they are generally recorded, but where they are not the parents are easily found out by the appearance of the progeny. The varieties are the hardest to determine positively especially when the flower has not its normal size and form, and where the matter of variation depends on a few spots or a slight shade of color. For instance, the old C. insignis is sold in twenty-two varieties, so that the difference between this large number cannot be great. However, the connoisseur will not fail to see the variation when there is any worth considering.

Plants in Flower.

Cypripedium Pitcherianum, n. sp., Philippine Islands.—Roots thick, dark and downy; leaves acute, five inches long and two and one-half inches wide, coriaceous, green tessellated with irregula-

lar darker spots, smooth on both sides but slightly incised at the edges; scape over a foot high, purplish and downy; bract one inch long, green; ovary one and three-quarters inches long, green and grooved, remarkably bent downward. The dorsal sepal is over two inches long and nearly two wide, acuminate, slightly revolute, whitish with bright green veins, and beset with very many black and dark purple spots, some running in lines, while others are scattered irregularly, covering nearly the whole sepal; the lower sepal is one and one-half inches long and three-quarters of an inch wide, appearance, by which it is easily recognized. It is certainly one of the most beautiful of cypripeds, and flowering at this time of the year, it will be a welcome addition to the already many existing kinds. Unfortunately, this is an unique plant at present, I having received it among other plants coming from the East Indies. The plant is growing well in a warm house with plenty of light and moisture, potted in peat, sphagnum and potsherd. It gives me great pleasure to name this plant after James R. Pitcher, Esq., of Short Hills, N. J., who is a great lover of this genus and a happy owner of

whitish with broader green veins; petals deflected, two and one-half inches long by three-quarters of an inch wide, whitish, changing to purple toward the ends, and with several bright green veins running through; both edges are beset with black warts and hairs, while the inner part is covered with many large and smaller veins, and the under side is whitish green, and finely studded with dark purple on a yellowish ground; the staminode is purplish, horsehoe-shaped with points incurved near the base, running down from the rest of the barbate group, in which this plant may be classed.—W. A. Manda.

WHEN I attempt to write up this class of plants I had no idea that when beginning to describe the different kinds I would have the fortune to describe a new one, and a beauty at that! The distinct features of this plant are the upper sepal spotted and the curious ovary that bends downward, on which the flower is suspended, giving it thus quite a novel one of the finest collections of this class of plants.

Cypripedium insignis. Wall. Nepal and Assam.—Roots thick, light-colored, downy; leaves six to twelve inches long by one inch broad, ligulate, uniformly of a light green color; seape eight inches high, blackish purple, downy; bract one and one-half inches long, green purplish at the base; ovary triangular, two inches long, slightly bent at the end; flower large, pale and showy; upper sepal two inches long and three-quarters of an inch wide at the base; ovary ovate, two inches long, slightly bent at the end; flower large, pale and showy; lower sepal two inches long by one broad, in a warm house with plenty of light and moisture, potted in peat, sphagnum and potsherd. It gives me great pleasure to name this plant after James R. Pitcher, Esq., of Short Hills, N. J., who is a great lover of this genus and a happy owner of
mountains of Sythet, at an elevation of 6,000 feet, growing in moss among rocks. It is the commonest species in cultivation at present, being of the easiest culture possible; indeed, any one knowing how to grow the geranium can grow this plant. It does best potted in peat and moss and kept well watered during the period of its growth. This species delights in light and sunshine, which are necessary to produce a good crop of flowers. A temperature between 52° and 60° is sufficient for the well being of this plant, but a little cooler or warmer does not injure it in any way. It can be had in flower at any time from September till March, as it can be forced along or kept cool and retarded till spring. The flowers, which are produced very freely, last fully three months in full beauty, and several weeks when cut. This species varies greatly in the size and shape of the slipper, and especially in the coloring of the dorsal sepal, and the farther downward the white color descends in the sepals the more valuable is the variety.

_Cypripedium insignis._ Wall. Var. Kimballianum. Sander. Khaya.—Leaves same size as in type, darker; bract narrower and straighter; upper sepal two and three-quarters inches long and one and one-fourth broad, flat, reflexed at the top, bright yellowish green, the heavy dark spots running in lines into the white, which extend half way on the sides; lower sepal two and one-quarter inches long, narrow, light green, spotted, white at the end; lip two inches long and one and one-quarter broad at the widest part, from which it comes down nearly to a point, olive green in color; petals two and one-half inches long, reflexed at the ends, tawny yellow with darker lines; staminode flat, irregularly notched. This is a beautiful and distinct variety, having been discovered in the Khaya mountains by Mr. J. Forstermann, and named in compliment to W. S. Kimball, Esq., of Rochester, N. Y., a gentleman well known among the orchidists, and who has built up a wonderful collection of orchids in the last few years. The peculiarity of this variety is the narrow, flat and nearly straight sepal, and the slipper, which has the form of those fashionable shoes of nowadays (which are used for raising corns). The whole plant and flower is much darker than the type, and the sepals have more white than usual. It is a fine addition of last year, and flowering for the first time in this country. It needs the same treatment as the common type.

_Cypripedium insignis._ Wall. Var. Nilsonii, Hort. Khaya.—Leaves broader than the type; upper sepal two and one-half inches long by one and one-half broad; light green, with white and margin, spotted irregularly with brown spots; lower sepal one and one-half inches long by one wide, whitish green changing to white toward the end, lightly spotted; lip only one and three-quarters inches long and over an inch broad, roundish, olive green in color; petals and staminode as in the type. This variety is remarkable on account of its very short and round slipper, and the white margin that extends downwards, which makes it well worthy of a place in any select collection of cypripeds. Grows readily under same conditions as the type.

_Selenipedium longifolium._ Reich. f. Costa Rica. (Syn. _Cypripedium longifolium_. _Cypripedium Reichb.)

Roots thin, many and matted; leaves one to three feet long and one to one and a half inches broad, keeled, acute, dark green on the surface and
pale green underneath; scape two to five feet long, downy, branched and many flowered, dark green; bracts three inches long, broad, chestnut-colored, the lower quarters inches long, thin, brownish purple; upper sepal one and three quarters inches long by three-quarters wide, green with white margins and white throat; petals horn-colored, four and one-half inches long and only a quarter of an inch wide, green and white, while the extremities are purplish; lip two inches long, nearly round, three-quarters of an inch wide, green, shaded with brown and slightly spotted on the inside; stamina nearly oval, green, with black bristles on the top and side edges. This is a noble looking plant when well grown. Mr. Williams in his book says that there is only one flower open at a time, but I have before me a plant with thirteen spikes, all branched; the longest is five feet, with two branches, each bearing two flowers, while the main branch has three spikes, a flower for one spike, and when grown in that way it is a species not to be despised. Of course the colors are not very striking, but the flowers are large and showy, and it keeps flowering for ten months out of twelve. This species was originally discovered and introduced by Warszewicz in Costa Rica, and the plant was grown in a greenhouse, with plenty of light, sun and air. Being a free grower, it requires plenty of pot room and good turf peat; this with some sphagnum moss are the right materials to grow this plant.

Selenipedium Sedeni, Reich. f. x (S. Schlimg. x S. longifolium.) (Syz. Cypripedium Sedeni) — Roots thick, white; leaves twelve to eighteen inches long and one and one-half inches broad, pointed and somewhat keeled, bright green; scape purplish, downy, one to two feet long, branched, many flowered; bracts short, green and purple; ovary narrow, two inches long; upper sepal one and three-quarters inches long, oblong by five by one and one-half inches broad, greenish white, shaded with purplish; lower sepal one and one-quarter inches long and one inch broad, nearly oval, green, petal green, petal base and half an inch broad, pointed, twisted, purplish, much darker toward the acute ends; lip roundish, infolded, one and one-half inches long and nearly one inch broad, dark purple, shaded and veined with the darkest purple and spotted in the inside; stamina slightly reniform, purplish. This beautiful hybrid was raised by Mr. Seden (in whose honor it was named) for Messrs. Veitch & Son of London, England, and was the first hybrid of the selenipedium section. It is a good acquisition to our culture, being free growing and free flowering; indeed it is self fertile, and is as well suited for the plant in the position of any other strongly and well grown. Generally this plant is grown too warm, which is a great mistake; the intermediate house, with a temperature of 45° to 70°, is the plant best suited for it, and the cooler it is grown the deeper will be the color of the flowers and richer the green of the leaves. Scape, spikes, and leaves are the best material for growing this plant; ample pot room and good drainage are also indispensable for its well being. It should be slightly shaded from the sun.

Orchid Hints.

At this season of the year orchids should have little water; just enough to keep them from shriveling. Remove the shop from the greenhouse if not already done, so as to give the plants all the advantage of plenty of sun and air during bright weather. To ripen up the growths, soak the bulbs in tubs of water, consisting of mixed waters, such as naphane and Wardianism, as soon as they have finished their growth, should be put into a cool house—a carnation box will do. The roots must be wetter just enough to keep the bulbs plump until their buds are well advanced; when they may be removed to warmer quarters, and more water given them. Give the flowers, although the blooms will have more color if allowed to open in a cool house.

Peristeria elata—Dove flower—will have completed its growth on the plants which flowered in summer, and these should be kept moderately warm and little water given; if watered too much during their resting season the bulbs will "spot" or perhaps rot altogether; the plants which flowered late should still be kept warm and watered, to enable them to finish up their growth as soon as possible.

Calanthe Veitchi and other deciduous sorts will now be doing growing and losing their leaves in the cool. If no bloom is shown they should still receive a moderate supply of water to develop the flowers properly; after they are done flowering they should be kept cool and given very little water until they begin to grow in the spring. By keeping some of the plants in a cool place after the flower spikes are well advanced, a succession of gracefull spikes of bloom may be had for cutting for a couple of months or more. The calanthe is a most useful orchid, either in the house or in the garden, as it is the only whole of orchids blooms or to use with other loose cut flowers.

Odontoglossum Mexicano crispum and varieties will be showing flower spikes as they finish their growth, and a vigorous hunt for slips and snails will be in order at night with the lantern to prevent the slugs from eating the tender petals; the spikes, the pots may be set in inverted flower pots placed in sueters to be kept filled with suet, as the suet may be put around the bottom of the shoots which prevents the slugs from crawling up. Odontoglossum crispum and Od. Peronemosporum H. Wheeler need to be syringed freely at all seasons, and should have a plentiful supply of fresh air, even if a little fire heat has to be kept up to allow the ventilating being opened.

Malden, Mass.


Notes and Comments

The Puritan seems to be something of a snob among the flower trade. It does not sell. The reason for its unsalability does not seem very clear, but the commission men cannot dispose of it, and it is thought not likely to be sold favorably on the rose in consequence. No one finds fault with its creamy petals and fine foliage, but the shape is not admired, and to many the plant is unsatisfactory. Some of the critics find fault with the habit of the foliage, though it was specially recommended when it made its first showing; the flower fails to live up to the factory. Some of the leaves are awkward in shape, and the flower is very apt to be malformed. Perhaps we have not yet gained its confidence sufficiently to know how to grow it properly. One grower says it seems likely to be more satisfactory when grown on rapidly with plenty of heat. This will certainly make it softer, but it may grow out of its objectionable habits. The flowers shown of the Puritan were better specimens than most of those we see now.

Assuredly, we need force a rose for several years to have had a standard on how to treat it. If we overwork it or otherwise abuse it, there is sure to be trouble. Undoubtedly the frequent failures of the sturdy Perle was due to over-work in some cases and over-feeding in others.

The New York Florists' Club has decided to admit ladies as members. At the last meeting, Mr. Mayhew showed his thoughts on the centralization of the cut flower trade, which was followed by a general discussion. The question of a flower market in New York has often been debated, but practical men find as many reasons against the project as in its favor. When the attempt was made, a few years ago, to establish such a market in a vacant lot on the eighth street, it was soon abandoned as a failure; the buyers and sellers who were accustomed to go to theerry continued to do so, and ignored the new market, which was to be a trans-Atlantic Covent Garden. In any case, the American cut flower trade is so different in needs and methods from that of Europe, and is of such a character, that it would be impossible to follow foreign systems very closely. And we are likely to worry along in our present methods for some years, notwithstanding the example of Covent Garden. Some one is pretty sure to suggest the old reservoir on Forty-second street as a site for the new, and a forlorn piece of architecture has been proposed as a site for almost every public building started in the last ten years.

Is there the truth of something about chrysanthemums—as cut flowers, do they pay? Of course every grower must have them, but looking at their amazing cheapness, as they are sold on the street and everywhere else, one is forced to the conclusion that they must be grown in tremendous quantities to be at all remunerative. The flower says that last year H. Wheeler paid better than the same area in roses. That recalls the remark of another grower, who said plaintively that he thought the chrysanthemums would be like their effect on roses. Whether it is a waning craze or not, there is plenty of vitality in it yet, and the autumn flower trade without chrysanthemums would be Haulmet with Henry Irving left out. And there is no doubt that the numerous shows help the retail plant trade. Every woman with a 16 x 20 garden decides that she is going to fill it with chrysanthemums or "artichokes," and she fully expects to produce a mass of such flowers as we see on the odd-looking display tables.

Speaking of flower shows, why can't we have a special class of exhibits, open only to employees of florists or growers, analogous to the premiums for grocery men's gardeners only? Whether for plants or devices, there is little doubt that such a premium would call out competition among the gardeners, and perhaps workers who would come under this heading, and since the employees of to-day are likely to be the florists and growers of the future, and in whom their interest and ambition is beneficial to the trade at large. No doubt the horticultural Samaritan will just step forward and present it.