

Orchids at Rochester.

BY HENRY A. SIEBRECHT.

The very valuable collection of orchids at Rochester, owned by William S. Kimball, Esq., and presided over by his able gardener, Mr. George Savage, is no doubt as extensive and complete a collection as can be found anywhere on this continent, and I doubt very much if any collection in Europe; it is not only rich and valuable in number of plants and varieties, but what is very important, all the plants are in excellent health and vigor. Nowhere have I seen such high and successful cultivation, showing that no amount of care and expense is spared to attain the best results.

In looking through this vast private establishment one would think that it were being conducted on a commercial basis—such perfect order and system seems to prevail in every department; but not so, for unlike many private gentlemen who make all they can out of their private greenhouses Mr. Kimball will not dispose of a single blossom for money, his sole object being to gratify his love for the beautiful in nature, and to share the same with his many friends and visitors. I feel sure that he could not have devised a better project to accomplish that end. Every day in the year this magnificent museum of nature's rarest and most beautiful forms is open to the public, for this beneficent gentleman desires all to enjoy his treasures with him. Happily, this now noted place is located in the heart of the city, making it very convenient not only to residents but to the traveler whose time may be limited. I would that more of our wealthy men would, like this gentleman, devote a share of their wealth to the cause of horticulture, thereby benefiting all humanity as well as themselves.

Mr. Kimball's plant consists of an unique group of about a dozen houses which are arranged in such a way that one can walk through and view the beauties of the entire range without once stepping out of doors. A large curved span house is filled with *angreecium*, *vandas*, *saccolabium*, and *ærides*, some of which are exceptionally fine specimens. In the center of a group is the majestic *Vanda Lowii*, which, it will be remembered, was exhibited in bloom last season; and Mr. Savage informed me that by a register kept at the time fully 6,000 people from far and near came to see the plant while in bloom.

Next adjoining and similar to the *vanda* house is the *cattleya* house, well stocked with fine, healthy specimens of all known varieties, a great many of which are now in bloom. I noticed such as *C. labiata Percivaliana*, *C. trianae*, *C. Mendellii*, *C. speciosissima*, and hundreds of others, showing for flowers. Those in bloom are superb, and show the perfect care they have undoubtedly had.

Another house is filled with *cypripedium* or slipper plants; you can find every known variety in cultivation, as Mr. Kimball is especially fond of *cypripedium*, and has made this one of his specialties for the last two years. These thousands of plants are in a flourishing state, many of rarer and also some of the commoner varieties being now in bloom. Next we enter the *odontoglossum* house, which is a large north house; here the beautiful gems of the South American Alps thrive luxuriantly; thousands of plants, all in fine condition, and hundreds of them with spikes in different stages of development, some in full bloom, others

showing prominently, and more of them coming on later. There are also a number of other cool orchids in this house, such as *Laelia anceps*; *L. anceps Hillii* was in fine bloom, *L. autumnalis*, *Cattleya citrina*, etc. All these, except the *odontoglossum*, were suspended.

Now we enter a house which contains, I have no doubt, the largest and most varied collection of orchids which can be found anywhere; here you can see the poorest and the best of the epiphytal as well as of the terrestrial genera; there are some very interesting plants in this collection, and as Mr. Savage says, always something in bloom. Here we drop into a small but unique house devoted almost entirely to *masdevallias* and *maxillarias*, of which there are some fine large speci-



LEPTOSYNE MARITIMA.

mens; several varieties are now in bloom, with dozens and scores of blossoms. *Masdevallia tovarense*, with its pure white, bold, and upright blossoms, the interesting though small *M. Shuttleworthii*, *M. Veitchii*, *M. Harryana*, a number of them coming into bloom.

We wonder if this is the last, when we are told that the next house is the *deudobium* house, where are more varieties of this very graceful and free flowering genus than one could scare up perhaps in a dozen places, and though there are not many varieties in bloom at present there are great numbers of buds; in this house you will also find a grand collection of *oucidium*, *lycastes*, and *calanthes*; the latter are nearly past, but what is left of them and the bulbs and stocks show plainly how very fine and large they must have been when in their prime. We also see in this house grand masses of *Cattleya citrina* showing signs of bloom, and immense masses of *Laelia albidia*, *anceps*, *autumnalis*, and the largest lot of *L. dayana* I have ever seen anywhere.

We are not all through yet, for next we enter into the real East India, or *phalaenopsis* house, which is a wing of a stove. Here are certainly the best and largest *phalaenopsis* in this country, and not only in a small way, but in quantities including every variety of this very pretty but delicate genus. Every orchid grower knows what a queer and precarious family they are; as we often remark, when you think you have a fine plant, and

are all right, the first thing you know is your plant is going. I must compliment Mr. Savage upon the healthy and sturdy appearance of his plants. Not many were in bloom, but any number of spikes were showing for an abundant crop. This is another one of Mr. Kimball's specialties, and if money can obtain any new or rare variety of this family Mr. Kimball secures it. The stove house adjoining contains only the choicest kinds of tropical foliage plants; *anturiums* of every variety, *nepenthes*, masses of colored foliage such as *crotons*, *dracenas*, *alocasias*, and others of great interest.

In addition to the orchid and plant houses there is an aquatic house, with an artificial pond, in which are at home the gems of the water, some of which are in bloom the year round. *Nymphaea devoniensis* was in perfect bloom, and several other sorts were showing buds. The ends and sides of this large house are finished off with palms, ferns, flowering vines, such as *bougainvilleas*, *ignonias*, *jasmynes*, *tacomasias*, *passifloras*, and *allamandas*, with hundreds of flowers. There is an abundance of bulbous flowers, of which there is no end; lilies of the valley, *hyacinths*, *tulips*, *freesias*, and *narcissus*. There are also two rose houses, a violet and pansy house, and when one has passed through he wonders how all these things are kept in such perfect order and condition. Here is a place to learn a great deal.

Mr. Kimball certainly has every reason to be proud of his now large and handsome collection, especially when we consider the short time since he first projected the plan for this magnificent place. He takes a great personal interest and pleasure in his plants, and I doubt if there is one in his houses of which he does not know the name, or is not more or less familiar with. Novelties are being continually added, and thousands of dollars are annually expended in new and desirable accessories.

New Rochelle, N. Y., Jan. 27, '87.

Leptosyne Maritima.

I am real glad to know from your correspondent, E. L., page 213, that some of our florists have taken hold of this beautiful winter-blooming plant. I have grown it for many years and time and again have urged its cultivation by our florists. John Thorpe has seen it here in bloom, and I find flowers of it to our late lamented friend James V. Murkland, to show them to his friends in New York.

It is one of the golden beauties of California, indigenous to the sea beach at San Diego and on the islands. It is also known as *Tuckermanna maritima*, *Nutt*, and *Coreopsis maritima*, *Bruth* and *Hooker*, but Gray's name, *Leptosyne maritima*, is the one retained by *Sireno Watson*, the eminent author of the *Botany of California*.

Although it is a perennial, I always treat it as an annual. The seeds are cheap enough, and they germinate as readily as do those of zinnias. Sown in spring, it will bloom out of doors in summer (but the flowers are not as fine as those produced under glass in winter), and sown in June it will bloom in December; or those of the spring sowing if lifted and potted about the end of July, make fine winter stock. It loves the sunshine. Heavy waterings destroy it. While desirable in limited quantity, I should not advise any florist to go into it extensively; better try a few plants to begin with. I think it will always be a "fancy" article; never a popular plant.

on the certificate plan. Each person going pays full fare (\$9.50) and must ask the agent when purchasing the ticket for a certificate, which must be properly stamped and signed. This will, when signed by the secretary again in Toronto, enable the owner to return for one third rate, namely, \$3.20. Arrangements have also been made whereby those wishing to stay over for a few hours at Niagara on their return can do so. Delegates wishing to meet this train en route and desiring sleeping car accommodation, can have the same reserved by writing to the undersigned not later than Wednesday, the 12th of August, stating fully the number of berths required and where they will board the train. If enough delegates signify their intention of going to warrant a sleeping car or cars will be chartered to Lewiston, thus making it very pleasant and saving something in the expense also. If any delegates wish to go a day earlier there will be several members of committees going by the train leaving New York at same time on Sunday afternoon and accommodation can be secured in the same way for that train as for the day following by advising

Summit, N. J. JOHN N. MAY.

Chicago to Toronto.

The rate from Chicago to Toronto and return, via the Niagara Falls Short Line and the Canadian Pacific, will be \$16.60. Train leaves Dearborn station at 3 P. M. August 17, and reaches Toronto at 8:45 A. M. on the 18th. Special sleepers will be provided, and there will be no change of cars. Florists in the west and northwest are invited to travel with the party from this point. Berths may be engaged in advance by addressing G. L. Grant, 54 La Salle street, Chicago.

Names and Addresses of Chairmen of Committees of Toronto Gardeners' and Florists' Club for S. F. Convention, August, 1891.

Reception Committee—Mr. John Chambers, Superintendent Parks and Gardens, St. Lawrence's Hall, Toronto, Ont.

Trade Exhibit Committee—Mr. Thomas Manton, florist, Eglinton, Ont.

Entertainment Committee—Mr. W. J. Laing, 401 Huron street, Toronto, Ont.

Ladies' Committee—Mrs. Fraser, florist, Spadina Crescent, Toronto, Ont.

Introduction Committee—Mr. F. G. Foster, florist, Hamilton, Ont.

Decoration Committee—Mr. C. Arnold, florist, 521 Queen street, W., Toronto, Ont.

Finance Committee—Mr. J. H. Dunlop, florist, corner of Bloor street and McKenzie avenue, Toronto, Ont.

Printing and Badge Committee—Mr. S. E. Briggs, of the Steele Brothers Co., corner of Front and Jarvis streets, Toronto, Ont.

Bureau of Information—Mr. George Vair, care Sir D. S. McPherson's Chestnut Park, Toronto, Ont.

CONVENTION SUPPLEMENT advertisements must reach us by August 10 at the latest. If you want to be represented in the supplement send copy for your advertisement at once.

THE FIFTH ANNUAL CONVENTION of the Association of American Cemetery Superintendents will be held at Chicago, September 9, 1891. Full information may be had from the secretary, Mr. Frank Higgins, Woodmere Cemetery, Detroit, Mich.



Orchids at W. S. Kimball's.

I recently enjoyed a visit to Rochester, or "Powersville," as it is sometimes called, although some have suggested "Oreihidville," on account of the scarcely equalled collection of orchids, the property and hobby of W. S. Kimball and the pride of genial George Savage, well known to horticulturists as a prize taker in this particular line.

At all times of the year the houses are worthy of a visit and visitors on their way to Toronto would be well paid to stop off.

Cypripediums are the specialty here and it is the "Mecca" of everything new and interesting in this particular family. One of the prettiest, and in flower for the first time, is a variety named after the enthusiastic owner of these many treasures, namely, *Cypripedium Kimballianum*, and it does honor to the gentleman it is named after. It is of the praestans type, but far more handsome; it is a bolder and more striking flower altogether; the yellow in the dorsal sepal is deeper, and the chocolate colored bars darker and the petals more twisted. Altogether it is a grand acquisition, and Mr. Kimball may well feel proud of it.

Of the "tailed" or caudatum section many varieties were noted, more especially *C. caudatum Wallisii*, the white variety; *C. caudatum nigrescens*, the black variety; *C. caudatum roseum*, and many others, bearing ten to eighteen fully developed flowers. *C. grande atratum*, a dark variety of *C. grande*, and undoubtedly one of the finest hybrids ever raised, has *C. caudatum* (in my opinion one of the most beautiful and striking of the group *selenipedium*) as one of the parents, which it greatly resembles in its "tails." It keeps in flower a long time, and the time of writing bore fifteen immense flowers of great substance, showing as in all plants seen here, good culture and careful attention to detail.

Cypripedium Schroderae, another hybrid of *C. caudatum*, and that little gem, *C. Schlimii*, is named after Baron Schroder, of orchid fame. It is one of the best representatives of the breeders' skill, and shows what may be done in this particular line. Mr. Savage has quite a number he is coaxing along from which he expects great things. *Cyp. Cecelie* and *Cyp. Orphan* of Rochester, though not yet in commerce, were raised by him at Mr. Kimball's during the last year.

Among the many other specimens in flower were, *C. Sedenii candidulum*, a white variety of *C. Sedenii*, with eight spikes; *C. Druryi*, a very distinct species from the Travancore mountains, with dark bands through the middle of the sepals and petals; *C. Lowii*, well known; *C. Petersii*, *C. Parishii*, unique and well represented, as also were the stately *C. Hookeri*, and its sub-var. *voluntarium*; the bold *C. argus Moensii*, the modest *C. Schlimii* and many other species and varieties, including *C. bellatulum* and about 250 *C. Lawrenceanum*, with many very pretty varieties among them, including that rare "Albino," *Cyp. Lawrenceanum*. Several have been for the first time in America just twelve months ago. The rare *C. Sanderianum*, somewhat difficult to flower, was giving great promise.

Of miscellaneous orchids many unique things were in flower, the most conspicuous of which are included in the following: *Cattleya (Mossie)* Wagneri, the true white form, with massive flowers; *Cattleya Skinneri* alba, very graceful, with 25 fully expanded flowers; *Cattleya dolosa*, of the nobilior section, with very dark mauve flat petals, very showy, and several hundred *Laelia purpurata* flowers with the white variety went to make up a well filled house.

Of dendrobiums I saw here the finest piece of D. Freemanii it has been my lot to see. Fancy one bulb covered with 40 odd flowers, of immense size for the variety and fully developed. Say, George, you did well! D. Pierardii latifolia, D. Wardianum, D. nobile Backhouseanum and D. suavisimum all carried a wealth of flower, as did also D. Jamesianum, a variety which, though somewhat more difficult to flower than the rest, succeeds and flowers well by giving it a cool treatment, as Mr. Savage does.

The old Vanda Roxburghii and Vanda Denissoniana, with pure white petals and deep orange centers, were really pretty. A wealth of that useful odontogloss, O. citrosomum and var. album with its hanging racemes of white and mauve tinted flowers, gave additional proof of its value to the florist and tried to vie with the arching spikes of O. Alexandrae and O. Pescatorei, which were simply reveling in their treatment.

Many masdevallias of the Chimera section, including M. Wallisii and others, M. Harryana and many varieties, proved how easy it is to cultivate these little subjects, though a few years ago the idea of growing them here was scouted.

Miltonia stellatum, when cheap and plentiful, will prove useful for cutting, having light yellow flowers nearly as large as O. Vexillarium.

Only a partial list of the many good things to be seen here is given, but, as the hard hat said, "more anon."

June, '91. THE DRUMMER BOY.

Lycaste Aromatica.

The genus *Lycaste* contains some of our best garden orchids, and *L. aromatica* is one of its most interesting species. The orange yellow flowers are between two and three inches across, and borne singly on slender, but erect scapes, which proceed from the base of the latest formed pseudo-bulbs to a height of four or five inches. The plant blooms very profusely during May and June, and the flowers possess a strong aromatic odor. This fragrance is their principal charm, though the color is by no means unattractive, a single plant in a 5-inch pot being sufficient to fill a greenhouse 50 feet long by 24 feet wide, with the delightful perfume.

A few words as to the culture of *L. aromatica* and *Lycastes* in general may not be out of place at this time. The temperature in which they are grown should never be allowed to fall below 50°. They are a class of plants that dislike dense shade, but being epiphytes, growing naturally in the partial shade of the trees whose trunks and branches they clothe, strong sunshine is also injurious. Ample drainage is strictly essential, and the best potting material is that composed of coarsely chopped peat fibre, sphagnum treated likewise, and broken crocks in the proportion of two parts of the former to one each of the latter. The pseudo-bulbs should always be elevated a little beyond the rim of the pot or pan, and it is advantageous to keep them clear of the potting material, which for