b 22 KEW GARDENS

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I Popular Guide

TO THE

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS OF KEW.

BY

SIR W. J. HOOKER

K.H. D.C.L. F.R.A. & L.S.

CORRESPONDENT OF THE INSTITUTE OF FRANCE, ETC. ETC.

Director.

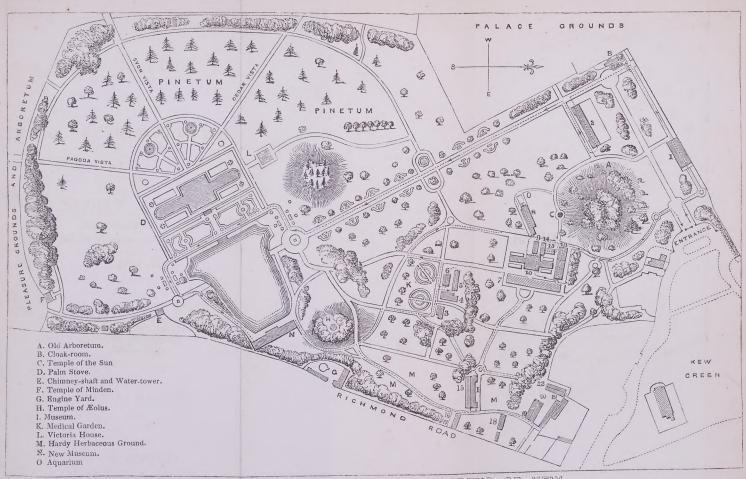
"Soft roll your incense, Herbs and Fruits and Flowers, In mingled clouds, to Him whose sun exalts, Whose breath perfumes you, and whose pencil paints."

SIXTEENTH EDITION.

LONDON

LONGMAN, BROWN, GREEN, LONGMANS, & ROBERTS.

1858



PLAN OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS OF KEW.

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[&]quot;Soft roll your incense, Herbs and Fruits and Flowers, In mingled clouds, to Him whose sun exalts, Whose breath perfumes you, and whose pencil paints."

- So sits, enthroned in vegetable pride,
 Imperial Kew, by Thames's glittering side:
 Obedient sails from realms unfurrow'd bring
 For her the unnamed progeny of Spring.
- "Delighted Thames through tropic umbrage glides, And, flowers antarctic bending o'er his tides, Drinks the new tints, the sweets unknown inhales, And calls the sons of science to his vales. In one bright point admiring Nature eyes The fruits and foliage of discordant skies, Twines the gay flow'ret with the fragrant bough, And binds the wreath round George's regal brow.
- "Sometimes, retiring from the public weal,
 One tranquil hour the Royal Partners steal,
 Through glades exotic pass, with step sublime,
 Or mark the growth of Britain's happier clime."



London:
Printed by Sportiswoode & Co.
New-street Square.

PREFACE.

A GUIDE, which should indicate to strangers the more remarkable features in the Royal Botanic Gardens of Kew, and point out some of the many interesting plants cultivated there, has long been a desideratum. Of late, this want has been peculiarly felt, because of the great extent of ground, the number of plant-houses, and the amazing increase of the collection. The very fact, however, of the continued additions to the plants, combined with their rapid growth under good cultivation, renders any approach to a perfect Guide or Handbook a very difficult, if not an impossible, task; for, though it is true that only a reference to the more remarkable objects can be desired, yet the frequent arrival of novelties must, of necessity, cause such a book to become, in a measure, imperfect soon after its publication. This circumstance, along with the constantly increasing bulk, entails the incessant removal of plants from one house to another; thus the individuals that are recorded as occupying one particular greenhouse or stove may require shifting the very next day. It is eminently needful to warn our readers of this circumstance, because they will thus comprehend how it happens that a plant stated to exist in Plant-house No. 1., for instance, may not at the time of their visit be found there. To a certain extent, and owing to the causes just mentioned, individual specimens cannot be stationary for a great space of time; still we endeavour to retain them in the places indicated as long as possible; and, if a large plant of peculiar interest be necessarily removed, we shall, as often as we can, replace it with a smaller individual of the same kind. When this is impracticable, and any particular plant is not seen where the Guide-Book states it to be, the Index will probably refer to the page where it is noticed.

The beauty of these grounds and of the plants which they contain, combined with the liberal admission granted by Government, attracts, as may be supposed, great crowds of visitors; and a few needful regulations, over and above those expressly posted in the grounds, may be here appropriately given.

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- 1. Smoking, or eating and drinking, or the carrying of provisions of any kind into the Gardens, are strictly forbidden. No dogs can be admitted.
- 2. No packages or parcels, bags or baskets, are allowed to be carried within the grounds. All such articles must be deposited at the gate of entrance while the owners make the tour of the Gardens.
- 3. No person attired otherwise than respectably can enter, nor children too young to take care of themselves, unless a parent or suitable guardian be with them: the police have strict orders to remove such, as also persons guilty of any kind of impropriety. Nor can large schools have admission, except in accordance with the printed regulations to be seen at the gate.
- 4. It is by no means forbidden to walk upon the lawns; still it is requested that preference be given to the gravel-paths, and especially that the lawn-edges parallel to the walks be not made a kind of footway, for nothing renders them more unsightly. It might scarcely be thought needful to say, that all play, leaping over the beds, and running, particularly on the mounds and slopes, are prohibited; yet the latter has been practised, and so heedlessly, that very serious injuries have resulted from falls, and grievously scarred faces have been the memento of such folly. The Gardens are intended for agreeable recreation and instruction, not for idle sports.

5. It is requested that visitors will abstain from touching the plants and flowers: a contrary practice can only lead to the suspicion, perhaps unfounded, that their object is to abstract a flower or a cutting, which, when detected, must be followed by disgraceful expulsion.

6. It is particularly requested that visitors will enter the Planthouses by the doors indicated for the purpose; if they do otherwise, and come in by opposite ones indiscriminately, they will meet and pass each other, which the narrowness of the walks renders difficult; and this must occasion inconvenience to all parties, and often injury to the plants.

The accompanying Plan of the Gardens and Plant-houses will, it is expected, prove useful; and a stranger to the ground and the collection may do well to follow the route indicated by dotted lines, as the most convenient for giving a tolerably complete survey of the whole.

7. No children's chaises are admitted; but grown-up invalids can have permission to visit the Gardens in wheel-chairs, on a written application to the Director, giving name and residence.

More might be said on these heads; but the Director, while bearing willing testimony to the excellent conduct of the many thousands who frequent the Gardens, prefers to rely on the good sense and honourable feelings of the visitors, and the value they must attach to the privileges here afforded, rather than multiply restrictions which may not be absolutely required.

The Botanic Gardens are open every week-day from one till sunset: and no person can be admitted at other hours except on business. On Sundays they are open from two to seven, or sunset, in winter.

N.B. The Royal Pleasure-Grounds or Arboretum, sometimes by strangers confounded with the Botanic Gardens, constitute a separate though adjoining portion of ornamental ground, accessible daily from May to Michaelmas, by three gates,—two in the road leading from Kew to Richmond, called the Lion or Pagoda Gate and the Unicorn Gate, and one by the river-side, nearly opposite Brentford Ferry, called the Brentford Gate,—besides the gates of communication to and from the Botanic Gardens.

To strangers desirous of presenting Plants or Museum objects from abroad to Kew, we here take leave to mention, that, in despatching packages and parcels, the quickest mode of transit is always the best. When sent by the Queen's ships or the Royal Mail, or the Peninsular and Oriental Company's steamers, the address should be:—

"To the Secretary of the Admiralty,
"For Sir Wm. J. Hooker,
"Royal Gardens, Kew."

If by merchant or other vessels, the direction is simply,

"To Sir Wm. J. Hooken,

"Royal Gardens, Kew,

"London,"

KEW GARDENS.

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BRIEF HISTORIC NOTICE.

It is generally known that considerable changes in the Royal Botanic Grounds of Kew were contemplated about the year 1840, when, from being a private garden belonging to the Royal Family, and maintained by funds from the Board of Green Cloth, it was liberally relinquished by her present Majesty, Queen Victoria, and placed under the control of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Woods and Forests, with the view of rendering it available for the general good. The public, having since been freely admitted to the Gardens under a few needful regulations, must have observed the many alterations and improvements effected under the sanction of the above-mentioned Commission, and cannot fail to desire some information respecting them. It is with a view to satisfy such laudable curiosity, and to increase the interest with which the Gardens are visited, that this Guide is now compiled.

We shall not here enter into the full and early history of the Royal Gardens of Kew: a few statements are, however, necessary, and we have selected them from the best authorities.

About the middle of the seventeenth century, the spot that now forms the Royal Gardens of Kew, together with a residence called Kew House, belonged to R. Bennett, Esq., whose daughter and heiress married Lord Capel. There is a handsome white marble monument to this lady in Kew Church. Kew House and Grounds then passed into the hands of Mr. Molyneux, who was secretary to King George II. (when Prince of Wales), and who married Lady Elizabeth Capel. He was well known as a man of literature and an astronomer. With an instrument of Mr. Molyneux's own con-

struction, and in those very grounds, Dr. Bradley made the valuable discoveries relating to the fixed stars, to commemorate which an inscription was placed by the late King William IV. on the pedestal of a sun-dial, which stands on the identical spot which had been occupied by Dr. Bradley's telescope, upon the lawn, opposite to the present palace.

The Prince of Wales, who was son to George II., and father to George III., admiring the situation of Kew House, took a long lease of it from the Capel family about the year 1730, and began to form the pleasure-grounds, then containing about 270 acres. They were completed by his widow, Augusta, Princess Dowager of Wales, who delighted in superintending the improvements, then conducted upon a most extensive scale. At this time Sir W. Chambers was employed in decorating the Gardens at Kew with temples, &c., an account of which he published in a large folio work with many plates, (dedicated to the Princess Dowager of Wales,) under the title of "Plans, Elevations, Sections, and Perspective Views of the Gardens and Buildings at Kew, in Surrey, the Seat of H. R. H. the Princess Dowager of Wales."

The Exotic Department of this Garden was commenced by the same Princess, and much favoured by the Earl of Bute, about the middle of the eighteenth century. Many of the finest foreign trees were contributed by Archibald Duke of Argyle (styled by Horace Walpole the Tree-monger), who sent them from his once richly-stored garden at Whitton, near Hounslow.

We find that in the year 1759, Mr. W. Aiton, a pupil of the celebrated Philip Miller, of the Chelsea Physic-Garden, was placed in charge of the Botanical Gardens at Kew,—a gentleman no less distinguished by his private virtues than his knowledge of plants, and great skill in cultivating them. His professional abilities quickly procured him the notice of the late Sir Joseph Banks, and a friend-ship commenced which subsisted between them for life.

About the year 1789 His Majesty George III. purchased Kew House, which was soon afterwards pulled down, and its furniture removed to an older mansion, since known by the name of Kew Palace, and once the property of Sir Hugh Portman, who is mentioned as "the rich gentleman who was knighted by Queen Elizabeth at Kew." This small but picturesque red brick dwelling, which appears to be of the date of King James, or Charles I., was purchased in 1781 for Queen Charlotte (who died there); and it was long the favourite suburban residence of the Royal Family. Her Majesty evinced much interest in the increase of the collection of plants; and justly does the late Sir James E. Smith, President of the Linnæan Society, bear testimony to the Queen's love of botany,

when he says "that the genus Strelitzia (so called by Mr. Aiton) stands on the sure basis of botanical knowledge and zeal, few persons having cherished the study of nature more ardently, or cultivated it so deeply, as Her Majesty." Under such auspices, and aided by the enlightened patronage of Sir Joseph Banks, it was only to be expected that the Gardens of Kew should become celebrated all over the world. So early as 1760, the great or old Stove (No. 8. of the Plan), 114 feet long, was built by Sir William Chambers.

In 1761 the noble Orangery (No. 2. of the Plan) was erected also by Sir William Chambers. It measures 145 feet in length, its width is 30 feet, and its height 25 feet. In the same year was added the very elegant Temple of the Sun, as it is called, of the Corinthian order (C. of the Plan); and some young trees were planted near, which are now grown to be among the most beautiful in the Gardens, particularly an Oriental Plane and a Turkey Oak. Such had been the increase of plants, that, in the year 1788, a greenhouse was built for Cape plants (since demolished), 110 feet long; and another for the vegetable productions of New Holland, nearly the same size (No. 10. of the Plan), was added in 1792. (This latter has been much enlarged and improved under the name of the "Australian House.")

A catalogue of the plants in the Exotic Garden of Kew was published by Dr. Hill in 1768, and a second edition the following year.

A far more elaborate and important work appeared in 3 vols. 8vo., accompanied by some admirable plates, the Hortus Kewensis of William Aiton, in 1789, giving an account of the several foreign plants which had been introduced into the English gardens at different times, amounting to 5,600 in number; and so much was it esteemed that the whole impression was sold off within two years. Mr. Aiton did not long survive this publication, for he died in 1793, in the sixty-third year of his age, and lies buried in the churchyard at Kew, near the graves of his distinguished friends, Zoffany, Meyer, and Gainsborough. He was succeeded by his son, W. Townsend Aiton, Esq., who was no less esteemed by King George III, than his father had been, and who, besides conducting the botanical department, and taking charge of the extensive pleasure-grounds, was also employed in the improvement of the other Royal gardens, in all which he displayed great skill and judgment, and an intimate acquaintance with his profession.

The voyage of Captain Cook and Sir Joseph Banks round the world; those of Captain Flinders and Mr. Robert Brown (Botanicorum Princepe), and of Mr. Allan Cunningham, to Australia; the expeditions of Bowie and Masson respectively to Brazil and the Cape of Good Hope—all these enriched the Gardens of Kew with the vegetable

productions of the southern hemisphere, to an extent unparalleled before or since: besides which, other collectors were employed abroad during a long period of years in various countries; and the produce of their researches was deposited at Kew. On various occasions, especially during the life of King George III., other houses, stoves and pits were erected, as occasion required; but it must be confessed that, on the demise of that revered monarch and of Sir Joseph Banks, whom His Majesty so much delighted to honour, and who died shortly after the King, the establishment languished and suffered from want of Royal and scientific encouragement. During the reigns of George IV. and William IV., with the exception of a few plants being transmitted by occasionally employed collectors, and one hothouse being erected by the last-mentioned sovereign (and it is but right to add that this conservatory is eminently handsome and ornamental), the Botanic Gardens retrograded rather than flourished: and matters must have been much worse, but for the truly parental affection cherished towards it by Mr. Aiton, and the able exertions of his foreman (now the curator), Mr. John Smith. Throughout the country an opinion existed, which soon began to be loudly expressed, that either the Gardens should be entirely abolished or placed upon a very different footing, and rendered available, as a great popular yet scientific establishment, for the advantage of the public.

Government was, happily, ready to respond to this latter feeling; and in 1838, the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury appointed a committee to inquire into the management, condition, &c. of the Royal Botanic Gardens. The result was, that in May, 1840, a return was made to the House of Commons, in the shape of a report by Dr. Lindley, who, at the desire of the committee, had surveyed the Gardens, in conjunction with two well-known practical gardeners.

Strangers, or persons not well acquainted with the vicinity of Kew, often entertain very incorrect notions of this establishment; nor can such be wondered at, seeing for how long a time it was the private garden of the Royal Family, and taking also into account its extensive and highly-varied nature. It may be interesting, especially as exhibiting most forcibly the change that has since taken place, to describe in few words the extent and condition of the grounds at the time of this investigation, namely, in 1840. They then consisted of—

1. The Grounds immediately about the existing Palace of Kew, which were of small circuit, lying near the river, and consisting mainly of those of the great edifice or Palace*, begun by Mr. Wyatt in the reign of His Majesty King George III., and soon afterwards pulled down, and the grounds of the present Palace. The boundary

^{*} The site of this Palace is now, with the sanction of Her Majesty, used as a nursery for the supply of the London Parks.



is the river on the north side, the Pleasure-Grounds on the south and west, and the Botanic Garden on the east.

- 2. The Botanic Garden proper, which contained at the time in question 11 acres, or thereabouts, of very irregular outline; bounded on the north partly by the gardens of those residences, mainly Crown property, which stand on the south side of Kew Green, in part by the Green itself, from which it was separated by a handsome railing, and in part by the gardens of His late Majesty the King of Hanover; westward, by the grounds of the Palace above-mentioned; eastward, by what were then the Royal Kitchen and Forcing-Gardens (now a part of the Botanic Garden); and south by the Pleasure-Ground.
- 3. The Royal Kitchen and Forcing-Gardens, situated between the Botanic Garden and the Richmond road, comprising about fourteen acres. (This portion has been, as just observed, added to the Botanic Garden.)
- 4. The Pleasure-Ground or Arboretum, comprising 270 acres of wood, shrubbery and lawn, lying to the south of the Botanic Garden, and bounded by the Richmond road on one side, and the river on the other. For some years this extensive and beautiful area had been thrown open only twice a week during the summer (now daily during that season, and the public are admitted at three different entrances).
- 5. South of this, and stretching between the Richmond road and the Thames, almost into the lower part of Richmond, lies Richmond Old Park, or the Old Royal Deer-Park, as it is sometimes called; a noble extent of pasture, comprising about 400 acres, interspersed with many fine trees; distinguished by the Observatory erected by George III., and now liberally granted to the use of the British Association, where that scientific body has carried on an interesting series of experiments on terrestrial magnetism.

The report of Dr. Lindley, mentioned above, has reference only to the second of these divisions, namely, the Royal Botanic Gardens, which are stated to "include many fine exotic trees and shrubs, a small collection of herbaceous plants, and numerous specimens of grasses." Ten different stoves and greenhouses then existed; most of which have been either condemned and pulled down as unworthy of the Gardens, or so greatly altered as to be no longer recognizable under Dr. Lindley's description.

It resulted from this investigation, that the whole of the Gardens, Pleasure-Grounds and Park was transferred to the department of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Woods and Forests. Mr. Aiton, on the eve of the fiftieth anniversary of his holding office, retired from the charge of the Botanic Gardens; and the present Director received instructions from the Board to enter upon his important

duties in the spring of the year 1841, and to prepare, as speedily as possible, a Report of those alterations which were deemed essential for rendering the Gardens useful to the public at home and to our colonies abroad. Many useful suggestions on these heads were offered by Dr. Lindley in the before-mentioned document, especially the following: - " A national garden ought to be the centre, round which all minor establishments of the same nature should be arranged: they should be all under the control of the chief of that garden. acting in concert with him, and through him with one another, reporting constantly their proceedings, explaining their wants, receiving their supplies, and aiding the mother-country in every thing that is useful in the vegetable kingdom. Medicine, commerce, agriculture, horticulture, and many valuable branches of manufacture, would derive much benefit from the adoption of such a system. garden of this kind, government would be able to obtain authentic and official information on points connected with the founding of new colonies: it would afford the plants there required, without its being necessary, as now, to apply to the officers of private establishments for advice and assistance."

Changes of a highly important character could not fail in suggesting themselves to the Director, on his becoming intimately acquainted with the minutiæ of the establishment, many of which it were tedious to narrate in this place.

One of the first was to open the Botanic Gardens for the admittance of the public daily. Not only the Grounds but the Planthouses and Museum are open to visitors; the number of whom, it is needless to say, is very considerable*; yet, what is peculiarly gratifying, and contrary to the anticipation of many persons, this privilege has been rarely abused. In the few cases of an opposite line of conduct, the consequent detection (which must be expected where trustworthy men are necessarily dispersed through the Gardens at their various occupations) has proved its own punishment.

Next to the facility and consequent pleasure and instruction to the public, the enlargement of the ground was an important object. The limit of the Garden was not, indeed, exactly defined where it met the precincts of the residence of His Majesty the King of Hanover; but permission was soon obtained to include within the Botanic Garden

^{*} It may not be uninteresting to our readers to state the gradual increase of visitors, since the Botanic Gardens were thus daily thrown open to the public. The amount of visitors

in 1841 w	as	-	-	-	9,174	in 1850 was		_	-	179,627
1842	••	-	-	-	11,400	1851 ,,	-	-	-	238,900
19/2	"	-	-	-	13,492	1852	-	-	-	231,210
1044	••	-	-	-	15,114	1853	-	-	-	331,210
1045	,,	-	-	-	28,139	1854 ,,	-	-		339,164
1046	"	_	-	-	46,573	1855 ,,	-	-	-	318,818
1047	,,	_		-	64,282	1856 ,,	-	-	-	344,140
1040	"	•	•		91,708	1857 ,,	-	-	-	361,978
1840	,,	-			37,865	, ,				•

all the ground immediately about the Conservatory and Orangery, which greatly enhanced the beauty of the view, and added between This augmentation to the limits, however, was, 3 and 4 acres. from its small extent, rather to be considered ornamental than useful. Application was made by the Chief Commissioner of Woods and Forests, to the Queen, for a grant of land from the contiguous Pleasure-Ground, which might afford the means of forming a Pinetum (or a collection of plants of the Pine-tribe) suited to such an establishment, and also of erecting a Palm-Stove, or tropical house, equally worthy of the place and the nation. Her Majesty was graciously pleased to assent to this request; and a portion of the Pleasure-Ground, comprising about 47 acres, and including a piece of water, was surveyed, and permitted to be enclosed within a light wire fence, which still gives to view the rest of the Pleasure-Ground, and adds to the beauty of the Botanic Gardens, which, thus augmented, contained 60 acres.

Again, in the winter of 1846-7, orders were received for abolishing the Royal Kitchen and Forcing Gardens of Kew, as such, and incorporating them with the Botanic Grounds, which has already been done, thus adding 15 more acres to the scientific portion of the

grounds (75 acres in all).

But changes now come to be noticed that have been effected within the above-mentioned Botanic Garden grounds; for, in the same ratio that hardy plants required more space, so did the tender plants need increased accommodation; and plans were accordingly given in for those improvements, by which such a transformation is effected in the aspect of the place, that persons who have not visited Kew Gardens for a few years can scarcely recognise the localities. We shall describe, with all possible brevity, the present contacton of the Royal Botanic Gardens, and at the same time indicate the effect most worth the attention of a stranger, both in the open ground and in the several plant-houses. There is a separate Guide-Book to the extensive and valuable contents of the two Museums of Economic Botany within the Gardens.

GUIDE TO THE BOTANIC GARDENS.

On approaching the Botanic Gardens by the new entrance at the head of Kew Green, the visitor cannot fail to be struck with the beauty of the richly ornamented gateway, erected in 1845-6, by the late Mr. Walker, of York, from a design of Decimus Burton, Esq. Passing through it, the main walk takes a westerly course, and, besides catching a distant view of Kew Palace, attention will be attracted on the left by the fine trees of the OLD ARBORETUM. a collection of hardy exotic trees and shrubs. On the lawn on the right-hand side of this walk, among other recently planted and recently introduced trees, is the graceful Cryptomeria Japonica, a plant of the Pine-kind, native of Northern China and Japan, with other young evergreen trees or shrubs, and a Palm of Northern China, Chamærops excelsa, which has been found to bear our climate for some years past with little or no protection; and on the other side of the walk, on the outskirts of the old Arboretum, will be seen good specimens of Douglas's Pine (Abies Douglasii), Pinus Sabiniana, &c. The Plant-house, which here comes directly in view, is

No. 1. THE CONSERVATORY;

A handsome stone building, of classical design, sometimes called the Architecture. Green-house. This fine structure was removed hither, by order of His Majesty William IV., from Buckingham Palace in 1836. It is one of the three Conservatories that had been erected in the gardens there, heated by innumerable coils of small pipes, fixed by Mr. Perkins, and is now filled with an extremely rich collection of Australian trees and shrubs, chiefly Myrtaceæ, Leguminosæ, Proteaceæ; the latter a family of plants, so named in consequence of the very varied character of the stems, leaves, and inflorescence, yet agreeing in the essential character of the flowers and fruit. They are handsome evergreen shrubs, or small trees, constituting much of the so-called "Scrub" of New Holland. Among the numerous kinds of this extensive group the Banksias and Dryandras are the most remarkable, and the handsome Waratah

^{*} The second is still a Conservatory at Buckingham Palace, while the third has been there converted into a Royal Chapel.



(Telopea speciosissima, fig. 1.) Their foliage, though harsh and rigid, has something of the Fern character; and the flowers, especially of the Banksias, are arranged in bunches or tufts resembling a bottle-brush. It is in the winter and spring season generally that they are in flower. The smaller and younger plants in this house are raised chiefly from Swan River seeds, sent by Mr. Drummond, and are of great rarity and value. Here, too, is placed the curious Hand Plant (Cheirostemon platanoides, fig. 2.) of Mexico.



TELOPEA SPECIOSISSIMA.

with leaves resembling those of a Plane-tree; the stamens, resembling the fingers of the human hand, probably recommended this curious

plant as an object of worship. At the period of Humboldt's visit, the only tree then known in Mexico was held sacred.

We are supposed to have entered this conservatory by the eastern door: on quitting it at the west end, the path leads towards the Palace, with a vista in front; of which the view extends past the front of the Palace and across the river to the grounds of Syon House, the mansion of His Grace the Duke of Northumberland. The main walk soon takes a southerly direction a little before coming to a Cloarroom, where ladies will always find



THE HAND-PLANT.

a place of rest or shelter in wet weather, and where their umbrellas or cloaks can be deposited by those who contemplate a long walk, under the care of an obliging female attendant. Here, on turning to the left, the visitor enters upon the grand and favourite promenade of the Garden. Proceeding, the attention is drawn by a large edifice on the left facing the south, which we still call by its original name,

No. 2. THE ORANGERY;

Which is used to shelter, in the winter, numerous large and half-hardy trees and shrubs, especially tender *Pines*, many of which are of great rarity and value. The house was erected by Sir William Chambers in 1761*, and it bears on the front, in two

^{*} Not 1751, as incorrectly inscribed on the shields in the façade.

shields, the initials of Augusta, Princess Dowager of Wales, who, as already mentioned, took a great interest in the Gardens of Kew, and to whom Sir William Chambers dedicated, in 1763, his "Designs of Her Royal Highness's magnificent Villa at Kew." The two ends of this edifice were altered and furnished with large windows in 1842, and they bear the royal arms and that date accordingly. It was originally destined for, and filled with. orange trees, till 1841, when they were removed to Kensington Palace (with the exception of a few), and their places supplied by a very miscellaneous collection of trees and shrubs, which had become too large for the other greenhouses. The tenderer Pines (Conifera) constitute, perhaps, the most prominent feature in this house, when it has received its inmates for the autumn and winter. Here, at the latter seasons, may be seen the noblest specimens in Europe of the Norfolk-Island Pine (Araucaria excelsa), remarkable for their beautifully drooping and graceful branches, which almost vie with ostrich plumes:—the Araucaria columnaris of New Caledonia. where its stately column-like appearance was noted by the circumnavigator, Captain Cook, under the name of Cupressus columnaris : the Pencil Cedur, as it is commonly called, - no cedar, indeed, but an American Juniper (Juniperus Bermudiana) : - the Moreton-Bay Pine (A. Cunninghami), together with another species from Moreton Bay, N. E. Australia, resembling, in its foliage, the Chili Pine (A. imbricata), and long the only specimen of the tree in Europe. was discovered in the high lands, near Moreton Bay, by the late J. G. Bidwill, Esq., and having been by him presented to the Gardens, it justly bears his name (A. Bidwilli): its full-grown

cones are as large as a child's head; and, as the seeds of the Chili Pine are eaten in South America, so are these eagerly sought for, as an article of food, by the aborigines of Australia, who at the proper season migrate to the pine-woods for the sole purpose of collecting them. The Brazilian Pine (A. Braziliana), the China broad-leaved Pine (Cunninghamia lanceolata, fig. 3.), graceful Pines from the Himalaya Mountains, and several others, equally rare, from Mexico and elsewhere, are here; all needing protection during the winter.



In this house some large Gum-Trees of Australia (Eucalyptus) are easily recognizable, - one kind is the rapidly-growing Gum-Tree described by Mr. Backhouse, when he says: "It is the most gigantic tree of Van Diemen's Land, and there called Stringy Bark," Some of the specimens exceed 200 feet, rising almost to the height of the Monument in London before branching: their trunks also will bear comparison with that stately column both for circumference and straightness. Here are unquestionably the finest specimens in Europe of the famous New Zealand or Cowdie (sometimes called Cowris, or Kauri) Pine (Dammara australis), the gift (with many other rarities) of Admiral Sir William Symonds, R.N., the late Surveyor-General of the Navy; than whom no person was more competent to estimate its value for spars for the British navy. Shiploads are imported to supply the Royal Dockyards. It affords also copiously a valuable gum-resin.

In the same house may be seen the Camphor-Tree (fig. 4.) of Japan (Laurus Camphora L.); but so miscellaneous is the collec-

tion here, and so variable, in consequence of the plants and shrubs being moved in summer to different parts of the lawns and walks, that it is unnecessary to enumerate any more of them. The largest, and the rarest, and the best, especially the Norfolk-Island Pines, will generally be found at that season placed in the vicinity of the Orangery.

The visitor, on quitting this building, will probably be disposed to return to the main path leading to the Palmhouse and to the Victoria-House; and he can hardly fail to be struck with the beauty of this noble walk, and with the



AMBHOR TORE

judgment shown by Mr. Nesfield in the disposition and shape of the beds of shrubs and flowers. Alternating with the large beds are planted two lines of Deodars, designed eventually to form an avenue of this stately and graceful tree. Secondary lines are composed of Junipers, Cypresses, and other allied plants. The Deodar line is in one place interrupted by a beautiful Turkey Oak, too fine a specimen to be sacrificed, even for the sake of perfecting the avenue: the whole vista terminating on the south by the very handsome tower, which, while it performs the duty of a chimney-shaft for the Palm-house, includes a great tank (that receives its supply of water through the means of a steam-engine), by means of which the ornamental water and its jet are supplied, and applicable to the watering of the plants of the whole garden and all the houses. Westward on the lawn may be seen a fine group of Elms, known by the name of "the Seven Sisters" (so called in allusion to the daughters of His Majesty George III.), and two noble Limes; and in this

direction walks have been recently made (see the Plan) to branch off and conduct through the newly-planted *Pinetum* (collection of *Coniferæ* or *Pines*); by which the visitor may approach the Victoria-House or the western entrance of the Palm-house by the Syon vista, or extend his walk to the tower and ornamental water.

Returning, however, to the principal promenade, and continuing south, we find a handsome piece of water with a jet or small fountain, enlivened by swans, and by other aquatic birds from the Zoological Society of London. The Canadian Canoe, formerly moored here in summer (made of the Paper Birch, Betula papyrifera), became leaky and decayed. A model, made of the same material, is in the New Museum. A branch-walk to the right brings us to the recently finished

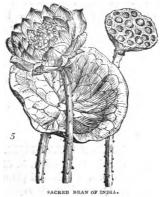
TROPICAL AQUARIUM.

(L on the Plan), with its circular tank, 36 ft. in diameter, originally intended for the cultivation of the splendid plant which bears the name of our most gracious Queen, Victoria regia; an inhabitant of the still waters or Igaripés of tropical America, especially in Guiana, and the tributaries of the Amazon. Our gardens are indebted for the possession of it to Dr. Rodie, and to Mr. Luckie, who sent fresh seeds in phials of water: - "It was on the 1st of January, 1837," writes Sir Robt. H. Schomburgk, the eminent traveller and recent discoverer of this extraordinary vegetable production, "while ascending the river Berbice, that some object attracted my attention which I could not comprehend; but animating my crew to increase the rate of paddling, we soon came opposite a truly vegetable wonder. All calamities were forgotten. I was a botanist, and felt myself rewarded. Here were gigantic orbicular leaves, floating on the water, five and six feet in diameter, with a broad rim, light-green above and purple-crimson below; while, in character with this wonderful foliage, I saw flowers a foot and a quarter (15 inches) across, fragrant, white, with a pink, at length deep rose-coloured, centre."* It was not till 1849, though many attempts had been made previously, that we succeeded in rearing plants from the seeds, which we gladly distributed among our most distinguished horticultural friends. In 1850 our plants came to perfection, and have ripened seed abundantly, so that we shall rarely be without flowering specimens in the summer. In the winter the plant lies nearly dormant.

Other water-plants occupy the different parts of the tank, and

See, for a history of this remarkable aquatic, Botanical Magazine for 1847, tab. 4275—4278; and for a more full account, see "Figures and Description of the Victoria Water-Lity." published by Messrs. Reeve, in imperial folio. The plant itself being found to succeed best in the Plant-House, No. VI., it is transferred there.

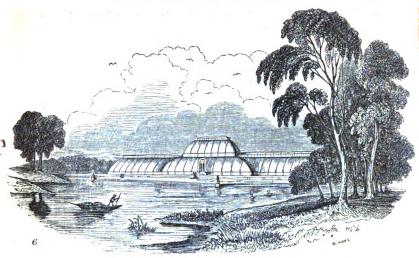
amongst them the beautiful "Sacred Bean" of India (Nelumbium speciosum, fig. 5.), κυαμος of the ancients, the Euryale ferox, the



Papyrus, large leaved aroideæ, &c.
The adjacent

PALM-HOUSE, OR PALM-STOVE,

(Fig. 6.), completed in 1848, may be said to be the glory of the Gardens. It is built from the design of Decimus Burton, Esq.; and the iron-work is executed by Mr. Turner, of the Hammersmith Works, Dublin; the brick and stone work by Messrs. Grissell and Peto; and the boilers by Messrs. Burbidge and Healy: all working in concert with the Director and Curator of the establishment, who are responsible for the successful cultivation of the plants. As the public have the opportunity of inspecting this noble stove, we shall content ourselves with remarking, that the shell or external frame consists of a centre and two wings, occupying an area 362 feet in length; the centre is 100 feet wide and 66 feet in height to the summit of the lanthorn: the wings 50 feet wide and 30 feet high. The whole is of iron, stone, brick, and sheet-glass, the latter slightly tinged with green, at the suggestion of R. Hunt, Esq., of the Geological Survey, in order to temper the too powerful rays of light, which is thus in a measure accomplished. The extent of glass for covering this vast building is about 45,000 square feet. The ribs are inserted in enormous blocks of Cornish granite, placed on the most solid concrete. The central portion of the building (138 feet long and 100 feet wide) has a substantial gallery all round at the height of 30 feet from the floor, ascended and descended by light



PAT.M-STOVE.

spiral staircases, so as to give the opportunity of viewing the plants from above as well as below by bringing the spectator on a level with the summits of many of the loftiest, and also affording the means of watering the plants from above. The whole interior is heated by hot-water pipes and tanks (the hot-water pipes, $4\frac{1}{9}$ inches in diameter, are estimated to extend 24,000 feet in length, and the hotwater tanks 1000 feet), also constructed by Mr. Turner, judiciously distributed under the tables and beneath the level of the floor. avoid the unsightliness of a chimney attached to, or even placed near, so noble a structure, the smoke is conveyed by underground flues, within a brick tunnel 7 feet high (from the underground furnaces, twelve in number), to a distance of 479 feet from the House; where a shaft or ornamental tower is erected, 96 feet in height, so situated and of such a form as to be an architectural object when seen from the main walk. Near the base of the tower, between it and the Richmond road, is the coal-yard, concealed by shrubs; and here too, within the underground tunnel above alluded to, is a railroad, for the purpose of conveying coals to the furnaces, and for bringing away the ashes.

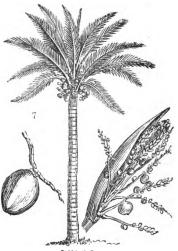
If, before entering, we make the tour of the terrace of the Palmhouse, we shall find that the immediate vicinity, at the east and west fronts, is laid out with ornamental parternes for flowers or

shrubs. To the westward is a considerable area, or lawn, of some 25 acres, constituting a Pinetum, where are now seen all the Coniferous plants which bear the open air; while from the great western entrance of the Palm-house three vistas radiate at equal distances, commanding views through the Pleasure-Grounds. One, inclining to the south, in the direction of the Pagoda (best seen, perhaps, from the gallery of this Palm-house), is bounded on each side, for a length of 2800 feet, by a line of scarlet Thorns, alternating with spiry Evergreens, as Cypresses, Thujas, and Junipers, constituting a lawn avenue. Outer lines of Deodars are also planted, which will eventually form the permanent vista. The second, or Syon vista, completed in the spring of 1852, and looking west, extends to the river, nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile, has a broad gravel walk, and is bordered with Deodars alternating with Limes. The third, looks towards a fine Cedar in the direction of Brentford.

We must now direct attention to some of the numerous objects in the Palm-house, a structure especially intended for the cultivation of those "Princes" of the vegetable kingdom, but by no means wholly confined to them. The Palms constitute, however, a splendid and striking feature of its vast area, and are seen to most advantage from the gallery above. Among the loftiest Palms in the House are two kinds of Cocoa-nut, of which one (Cocos plumosa) is an old inhabitant of these Gardens, and the other (Cocos coronata) was presented by Sir George Staunton, Bart., having been transported, though of so vast size, by railway, from that gentleman's beautiful seat, Leigh Park, Hants, in a case 42 feet in length. These, as does the common Cocoa-nut, afford good examples of one numerous group of Palms which have their leaves pinnated, or divided like the plume of a feather. The two stoutest Palms in the collection, easily recognized by the thickness of their trunks and the great size of the tubs in which they are placed (each single plant, with its earth and tub, being calculated to weigh 17 tons), are the West Indian or Jamaica Fan-Palms (Sabal umbraculifera), a good example of a second extensive group, having palmate or fan-shaped leaves. The Carvota urens may be mentioned as deviating considerably in its foliage from other Palms: each leaf is very much divided, and the ultimate divisions or leaflets resemble in shape the fin of a fish.

We may further mention in this collection the Date-Palm (Phænix dactylifera), producing the dates of commerce and of Scripture, and which, together with the Dwarf-Palm (Chamærops humilis), are the most northern of all Palms (the majority being tropical), extending even into the South of Europe; the Guinea Oil-Palm (Elæis Guineansis), which produces the African palm-oil; the well-known Cocoa-nut (Cocos nucifera, fig. 7.), of which the various

uses, as fruit, milk, oil, wine or toddy, wood, fibre, &c., are said to be as numerous as the days in the year; the Cabbage-Palm(Oreodoxa oleracea), which vields the so-called esculent substance from the crown of its stem; Seaforthia elegans and Corupha Australis from New Holland: Livistonia Borbonica; and Plectocoma elongata from Dr. Wallich, which, with its luxuriant foliage, and its singularly spiny stem (the spines being digitate, or united together like the fingers of the hand, or still more resembling the foot of the mole, and admirably formed for strength), can hardly fail to attract the



attention of the passer-by. Its leaves, when full grown, are of vast length, and pinnated like the shaft of a feather, so long, indeed, that they seem, as does the very slender stem, to need support; and nature has provided them with the means; for the rachis, or main-stalk of the leaf, extends, at the end, into a lengthened slender tail, armed all along with strong deflexed hooks, by means of which, while running up among the stems, and catching hold of the branches of other trees, the foliage and stem are propped. A yet more wonderful provision of nature is observed in the young and yet unfolded leaves of this plant, during the period when they insinuate themselves upwards among the branches of the forests, for then these spines are upright, and lie flat against the stalk of the leaf; not becoming reflexed till they are needed as a means of support. Of Arecas are the well-known Areca Catechu and Areca sapida; - Sago-Palm (Arenga saccharifera), -Phænix sylvestris is the Wild Date of India, which yields palm-wine and sugar; - the Ivory-Palm or Vegetable Ivory is the Phytelephas macrocarpa, an inhabitant of the Magdalena, New Grenada, of which the seeds constitute a substance so exactly like ivory, that they have become a considerable article of commerce, and are used for turning into a vast variety of trinkets and other articles resembling ivory; and the Wax-Palm (Ceroxylon andicola, fig. 8. p. 22.), of the Andes of New Grenada, discovered by Humboldt, of which the full-grown stem is covered with a waxy substance having the same properties as bees' wax : --

and lastly, we may observe that many kinds will be seen to have a coarse fibre separating from the base of the leaves, so strong indeed, that in the Attalea funifera, and other Palms, it forms an

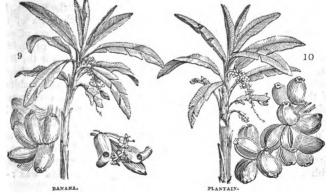
extensive article of commerce from Pará, Brazil, for the purpose of making brooms and brushes, as well as for the machines employed in sweeping the streets of London and other cities.

Some or other of the Bananas or Plantains may always be seen in this House, in a more or less advanced state of flower or fruit, through the whole year, their ample and delicately green foliage overtopping many of the other plants. The clusters of blossoms form a long pendent spike, and the flowers are of two kinds; those which are situated at the base of the spike being destined to become the cucumber-like fruit, while the others, seen at the extremity of the spike, are covered with concave purple scales, that gradually drop off, and permit the escape of the



CEROXYLON ANDICOLA.

pollen, or fertilizing dust, which, being conveyed by the wind or by insects to the other blossoms, renders them perfect. The Banana (fig. 9.) only differs from the Plantain (fig. 10.) in the form of the fruit: they are, indeed, considered by Humboldt as mere varieties. Both are of inestimable value to the inhabitants of tropical countries in the Old and New Worlds. A single cluster of fruit often weighs 70 or 80 pounds, even when produced in the stoves of



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this country. Besides being eaten fresh in their native land, bananas are dried as figs, or reduced to a kind of flour or meal by rasping. One kind, the Plantain, is called Musa paradisiaca; the Banana is Musa sapientum. A third and dwarf kind is the Chinese sort, Musa Chinensis, often called M. Cavendishii. The tender and succulent stems are eaten by various domestic animals: the fibre makes excellent cordage and clothing; and the leaves serve for covering houses. The rare and little known Ensete (Musa Ensete) of Bruce is

another Musa, and for the knowledge and possession of it we are indebted to Walter Plowden, Esq., H. B. M. Consul at Mussowah in Abyssinia.

Two tall naked-stemmed plants in this House, with a crown of sword-shaped leaves, are the Gum-Dragon (Dracæna Draco), which yields an astringent resin called dragon's blood, formerly used in medicine, and now chiefly employed by painters as a red varnish. Large as these specimens are, they are pygmies compared with the stature the tree attains in its native island, Teneriffe.



"The gigantic tree of Orotava," (fig.11.) says the enlightened traveller,

Humboldt, "measures 45 ft. in circumference, a little above the ground." Tradition relates that this particular Dracæna was venerated by the Guanchos (the aborigines of Teneriffe), as was the Elm of Ephesus by the Greeks, and that in A. D. 1400 it was as large and hollow as it is now! Its growth being exe. tremely slow, we may be sure the Orotava Tree is of incalculable age: doubtless it and the Baobab are among the oldest vegetable inhabitants of our planet. A noble specimen of a small branch of this tree is placed in the gallery of the Museum.-The classical Papyrus (P. antiquorum, fig. 12.). This is easily recognizable here by its tall, reed-like, triangular stem. It is crowned with the copious clustered flower-stalks.



The stoutest individuals were selected by the ancients, and from the

white pith which fills the interior their paper was prepared. On this it is said that most of the old manuscripts are inscribed, especially those which have been brought to light by the excavations at Herculaneum and Pompeii. Specimens of ancient and modern paper made from this material are in the Museum.

The Sugar-Cane (fig. 13.), which happily can be no longer denounced, with

regard to this country, as

"The cane whose luscious juice supplies Europe's blood-purchased luxuries,"

distinguishes itself by its very large yet grassy character, long and pale green foliage, and closely jointed stout stem. This latter, contrary to the character of most grasses, is solid (not hollow), and contains the saccharine juice, which is extracted by pressure between heavy rolling cylinders. The waste stems, thus squeezed dry, are generally used for fuel to boil the juice, and are found to be so impregnated with a



HE SUGAR-CAME.

siliceous or flinty substance, that masses of glassy slag are, in the course of a short time, deposited in the furnaces and require to be removed.

The Bamboo (fig. 14.), when fully grown, is infinitely more gigantic than its ally the Sugar-Cane, attaining during one season, in its native wilds, a height exceeding 100 feet: its immense hollow stalks are applied to an infinity of domestic and useful purposes, as may be seen in the Museum.

The Zamias, Cycases, and Encephalartus, in the south wing of this House, are worthy of attention. Four of the finest were presented by Mr. Anderne and Mr. Moxon from the interior of South Africa. They are inhabitants of



hot countries, chieffy in the southern hemisphere; and assuredly, within our days at least, nothing like them has ever been seen growing in temperate climates; but similar plants are found fossilized in the oolite formation of England, as at Portland Island, showing that in former ages these strange forms were denizens of this country! Their pinnated leaves are peculiarly harsh and rigid. The Cycases (fig. 15.) yield a kind of sago in the East Indies. Here are also

noble specimens of the curious South-African Elephant's Foot (Testudinaria Elephantipes); so named from a resemblance in external



15 CYCAS REVOLUTA.

surface of the gigantic root-stock to the back of a tortoise, or to the foot of an elephant: and by the side of it is a plant greatly resembling it in appearance, from Mexico, but belonging to quite another sort of plant, the *Dioscorea macrostachya*, a kind of yam.

The Calathea (formerly called Maranta) zebrina, or Zebra-Plant, is easily known by its large beautifully striped copious foliage: each leaf is banded with shades of velvety green of different hues, and lined, as it were, beneath with purple. It is only by putting some of the leaves a little on one side that the clusters of purple flowers

can be perceived. Here are seen two kinds of Strelitzia: one is Strelitzia Regina (fig.16.) 4-5 ft. high, showing its truly royal blossoms in winter and early spring; the other is the stately S. augusta, which, together with the Traveller's-tree, or Urania speciosa of Madagascar, have the most ample leaf-blades of any known plants.

Some very fine specimens of the 16 Screw-Pine (Pandanus), are here rendered conspicuous by their tall, simple, or branching stem, and tufts of large leaves, somewhat resembling those of the Pine (i. e. Pine-Apple), but these spirally arranged; from which two circumstances the English name is derived.



They are tropical

Indian plants, and are generally seen growing in Mangroveswamps, by the sides of rivers influenced by the tides, and whence they would assuredly be washed away, but nature has provided that

the stems and branches even should send down stout roots, which act as buttresses, and moor the plants, if I may so say, to their proper locality.

land.

Good plants of the Papaw (fig. 17.) and others of the Chocolate Tree (fig. 18.) are placed in this Tropical House. The juice of the former is employed in the East and West Indies for rendering tough meat tender; and, having this property, it is, of course, much prized by good housewives



in climates where it is necessary to cook all animal food on the day when it is killed. A noble specimen of this, with a branching stem, and generally bearing fruit, has been recently presented to us by His Grace the Duke of Northumberland. From the seeds of the

Chocolate Tree, as may be inferred from its name, is produced that "drink of the Gods," and also Cocoa (a very different thing from the fruit of the Cocoa-nut Palm, and a corruption of the Indian name Cacao, whence the botanical name. Theobroma Cacao).

Of the genus Euphorbia, E. grandidens is here seen, with its lofty stout trunk, twelve or fourteen feet high, and sending out spreading whorled branches like a candelabrum. slightest incision in the bark causes a great quantity of milky juice to flow, which, being of a highly acrid and venomous nature, is employed by the native Africans for poisoning their arrows and assagays.



The juice of other allied species is used in various countries for intoxicating fish: a destructive mode of procuring the finny tribe practised in Ireland by poachers in the Shannon. The efficacy of our common E. helioscopia (Wartwort) in removing warts is well known in Eng-

Among other valuable trees in this House may be noticed the

Mango Tree (Mangifera Indica, fig. 19.) now annually yielding flowers, and sometimes its rare and delicious fruit; the Silk-Cotton



Tree (Bombax pentandra); the Longan (Nephelium Longan); the Mahogany tree (Swietenia Mahogani, fig. 20.), a native of Honduras and Jamaica; the rapid-growing and thorny-stemmed Ceiba (Bombax



Ceiba). Here are the Coffee-Tree (Coffea Arabica, fig. 21.), seen in one place growing out of the crevices of the bare tufa rock of Bermuda, as obligingly sent by Governor Reid; the Tanghin (fig. 22.) or Poison-Tree of Madagascar (Tanghinia veneniflua), rendered infinitely more fatal than the Upas by the execrable laws of the Malagassy kingdom; the Manihot (Jatropha Manihot, fig. 23.), a most viru-

lent poison, but whose roots (their deadly juices being removed by pressure or dissipated by heat) are made into the well-known Cassava-Bread of the West Indies, and into as great a variety of wholesome



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food as can be obtained from wheat; the Cinnamon (Laurus Cinnamomum, fig. 24.), whose bark constitutes the valuable spice so



named; and the Bastard Cinnamon (Laurus Cassia), of which the bark is said to be often substituted for that of true Cinnamon. Among the numerous kinds of Figs there will be found here, near the north entrance, a young plant of the Banyan (Ficus Indica, fig. 25.), one of the most celebrated trees in tropical India, for the immense stretch of its limbs and the singular mode provided by nature for

their support: -

" Spreading so broad and long, that in the ground The bended twigs take root, and daughters grow About their mother-tree, a pillar'd shade High overarch'd, and echoing walks between."-



These roots or props occupy such a space of ground in their native soil that one, growing on the banks of the Nerbuddah, covers an almost



incredible area, of which the circumference now remaining (for much has been swept away by the floods of that river) is nearly 2000 feet. The overhanging branches, which have not yet thrown down their props or supports, stretch over a much larger space: 320 main trunks may be counted, while the smaller ones exceed 3000, and each of them is continually sending forth branches and pendent roots to form other trunks and become the parents of future progeny. The whole (according to Forbes's "Oriental Memoirs," from which I quote) has been known to shelter 7000 men beneath its wide-spread shade. Our young plant, though it has already sent down many stout roots or props from its spreading branches, can of course give little idea of this famous tree;

indeed, it is evident that a well-grown one would alone fill the entire Palm-Stove of the Garden. — The Pepul Tree (Ficus religiosa), from the same country, is remarkable for the tail-like points at the leaves; and these leaves abound so much in closely reticulated tenacious fibre, that the Chinese, by macerating them and removing the pulpy or parenchymatous substance, produce a kind of paper, which, when varnished, is capable of receiving the most beautiful drawings of birds, beasts, insects, flowers, &c. Such leaves, with the drawings, are commonly brought to this country from China, and are easily known to belong to this tree by their heart-shaped outline and the long tail-like point. Another kind of Fig in this collection must be here alluded to; for it illustrates a plant of Scripture, the

Sycamine-Tree, or Sycomore of Palestine (fig. 26.), the tree into which Zaccheus climbed (Ficus Sycomorus): this is the true and original Sycomore, its name being derived from $\sigma \nu \kappa \sigma \nu$, a fig, and $\mu \delta \rho \sigma \nu$, a mulberry; meaning a fig, whose leaves resemble those of the mulberry. "I was no prophet, neither a prophet's son," says Amos; "but I was an herdsman and a gatherer of Sycomore fruit;" from which, and from other passages in Scripture, it may be inferred that this tree was of very great importance among the Jews, although its fruit is extremely inferior to that of



SYCOMORE.

the true Fig (Ficus Carica), which two are the only eatable ones of 200 known species. The wood is said to be indestructible, and is therefore used for Egyptian mummy-cases. A fourth species of Figtree, the Ficus elastica, with large dark green glossy foliage, affords in its milky juice the Caoutchouc of the East Indies.

But we must proceed; and, as space will not permit the mention of a tithe of the interesting plants in this stove, we content ourselves with saying that here may be inspected, flowering at some period or other of the year, a great variety of tropical shrubs and trees; and amongst them the feathery foliage of the Tamarind-Tree (Tamarindus officinalis), whose preserved fruit is an extensival title of commerce; the Cotton (Gossypium herbaceum, fig. 27.), the seeds of which are surrounded by that beautiful filamentous substance, and whose flowers resemble those of a Hibiscus; Indigo (Indigofera Indica,



COTTON TREE.

fig. 28.), the leaves of which yield the rich dve so called: and the great strangely-shaped lurid and fetid flowers of the Aristolochia

ornithocephalus. Lastly, we shall only mention in this stove the numerous climbers planted in the ground at the base of the pillars and of the stair-case, such as Convolvuluses, Passion-flowers, Aristolochias, Bauhinias, Telfairia, Poivrea, &c., all remarkable for the beauty of their foliage or flowers, and sometimes of both.

Impossible as it would be to record, in this brief Guide-book, the numerous donors of rare exotics to this Establishment, it is only our duty to state that, of



the kinds from the East Indies, in the Palm as well as in other tropical Houses, by far the greater number were sent from the Honourable the E. I. Company's Botanic Garden at Calcutta, by the late distinguished superintendent, our lamented friend Dr. Wallich. The Books of that garden, as proved by a Report now before us, printed at Calcutta in 1840, show that, in the five previous years alone, 9 Cases, with 229 plants * of the rarest and most valuable description. were transmitted here; and between 1840 and 1845, the period of that gentleman's retirement from his arduous duties, our own Books testify to the arrival of 13 Cases containing 275 plants!

Quitting the Palm-house, we find that, from the south-east angle, the walk extends round the water; and from the opposite side of that piece of water (near the NEW MUSEUM †) the best view of the structure may be obtained, and in calm weather its reflection is seen in the Continuing past a wooded hill, the visitor is recommended to direct his steps north, and he will soon catch sight of a portion of ground recently laid out for the HARDY HERBACEOUS COLLEG-TION, and containing a small building also fitted up as a MUSEUM, and several stoves and green-houses, hereafter to be briefly noticed. This ground can be visited in this direction and the Museum inspected, and the principal cluster of Plant-houses (Nos. 10, 11, &c.) thus approached; or, if the visitor prefers another route, he may leave the herbaceous ground and the end of a long wall on the right, near which is a fine Cryptomeria japonica (first raised from seeds

Museum.

^{*} The same Report further states, that during the same period there were 2107 applicants for plants to the Calcutta Garden, from different parts of the world, who were supplied to the enormous extent of 189,932 individual plants. It is to be regretted that this document, printed at Calcutta, has not been more generally circulated: for it affords valuable information, relative to the introduction as well as distribution of a great number of rare and useful plants, during a small portion only of that gentleman's able directorship.

† See "Museum-Guide," 3rd edit., for a description of the contents of this and of the Old

sent from China by the late Sir Everard Home), passing a stately Tulip-Tree on the left; and, taking the next turn to the right, he will come to a plot of ground now a medical garden. In this quarter, too, he will find two good but young trees of the Paper Mulberry (Broussonetia papyrifera), whose bark yields the tapa or clothing of the inhabitants of the South Seas; and the most beautiful and almost gigantic Pampas grass (Gynerium argenteum), 11 feet high when flowering in the autumn; its large panicles of flowers very much resemble those of the sugar-cane. Though a native of the Pampas of Buenos Ayres, it is quite hardy. Just beyond is a group of four low Plant-houses; the first is

No. III. MESEMBRYANTHEMUM HOUSE,

a small Greenhouse, during the winter occupied with a considerable collection of African plants, of the genus Mesembryanthemum (or Fig-Marigold), but placed in the open air in summer. Many of these are remarkable for the resemblance in their foliage to the jaws of animals, whence some are appropriately named felinum. tigrinum, caninum, vulpinum, &c. The capsules of others have the same hygrometric property as the entire plant of the famous Rose of Jericho, or the hygrometric Club-moss (of all of which examples may be seen in the Museum); for, contrary to the nature of capsules or dry seed-vessels in general, these open in wet weather into segments, resembling the petals of a flower, and close in dry,—a beautiful provision of nature, by which the seeds sow themselves at the only season suited, in those hot sandy deserts, to their germination; and, after being gathered, they long retain this property, and may be made to open or shut according as they are placed in a wet or dry atmosphere. In the summer these Fig-Marigolds are removed to the open air, and the House is then occupied with Fuchsias or other showy and ornamental plants.

No. IV. DOUBLE ORCHIDEOUS HOUSE,

is a low double Stove, chiefly occupied as by Orchideous plants recovering from the effects of a long voyage, or used as a nursery for bringing forward flowering specimens for the more ornamental houses.

No. V. ORCHIDEOUS HOUSE,

a long low Stove, now wholly occupied as an Orchideous-house; but as the House No. 4. is also devoted to the same family of plants, and as there is often a necessity, from increased growth or other circumstances, to remove certain kinds from the one house to the other, our notes upon them must include the united collections.

The collection is eminently valuable. Of late years, there have been added to the original collection the extensive one of the late Duke of Bedford, presented by Her Majesty Queen Victoria, and the equally valuable legacy of the late Rev. John Clowes, M.A., of Broughton Hall, Manchester, in the autumn of 1846; together with many species, procured by purchase, or from our collectors and friends abroad, and other sources. The tropical Orchideous Plants (or Epiphytes, as most of them are justly termed, from the fact of their being generally found growing on the trunks and branches of trees) are at this time the greatest favourites among cultivators; and the prices given for many would surprise any person not individually interested in them. When in flower they are certainly among the most beautiful objects of the vegetable creation, and remarkable for their highly varied and peculiar forms, great delicacy of texture, and often exceedingly brilliant colouring. Happily, too. there is not a month nor a day in the year that some or other is not in blossom; though the first powerful suns of spring induce the flowering in a very marked degree. Many are here seen attached to branches of wood, or placed in wire baskets with moss and bark, or planted in the husk of cocoa-nuts and suspended from the rafters, living, as it were, and flourishing on heat and moisture. It were an endless task to direct attention to any particular kinds; for their beauty depends on the presence or absence of blossoms, which, with some exceptions, are generally short-lived. Still we may observe in the collection the " El Spirito Santo," (Peristeria), Cattleyas, Dendrobia, Stanhopeas (exhaling, as do many others, a most powerful fragrance); Lælia superbiens, remarkable for the large size of its flowers; Phalænopsis amabilis, or East Indian Butterfly-Plant, with its corollas of the purest white; and Oncidium Papilio, or West Indian Butterfly-Plant, whose resemblance to an insect is increased by the presence of certain petals, which look like long antennæ, and by the flower being borne on a long slender stalk, far away from the leaves, and which seems to carry the fly into the air. The Vanilla (Vanilla

aromatica, fig. 29.) is one of these tropical Orchideæ; its long narrow pods (not unlike those of the Haricot bean, but dark brown in colour, and soft and oily to the touch) afford the fragrant vanilla of commerce, much used in the preparation of chocolate, and in various other ways as a condiment, being considered to promote digestion.

a native of the hot parts of South America, and from Vera Cruz alone the pods of this plant are exported to the amount of 40,000 dollars annually. Our largest specimen of this, however, will be found in House No. 15.; it was presented in 1854, with many other rare plants, by His Grace the Duke of Northumberland. Our species of the East Indian genera Aërides and Saccolabium are among the most highly prized. At the latter end of winter, the very lovely East Indian kinds of Cypripedium are generally in blossom; these, how-



ILLA AROMATICA.

ever, with some others, are terrestrial, and planted in pots of soil. Of this terrestrial kind is the King-Plant of the Cingalese (Anactochilus setaceus), as rare as its leaves are beautiful: the foliage closely resembles brown-green velvet, with the most exquisite net-work of gold; other kinds (Physurus of Brazil) have green leaves reticulated and spotted with white.

No. VI. VICTORIA HOUSE.

Here, in the summer and autumn, will be seen the Victoria regia, described at p. 17, and various other water-plants. Two aquatic floating plants are worthy of inspection. One resembles bright-green lettuces floating on the surface: it is the Pistia Stratiotes of the West Indies, the Duckweed, in fact, of tropical countries, resembling green lettuces. The other is distinguished by the leaf-stalks being remarkably inflated, with large air-cells within; these give buoyancy to the plant, which would otherwise sink: it is the Pontederia crassipes, and bears a beautiful blue flower. The shelves contain a very choice assortment of plants of hot countries suited to the atmosphere of this House, and many remarkable for the beauty of the flowers: Ixoras, scarlet Clerodendrons,

Medinilla magnifica, and M. speciosa, Torenia asiatica, Hoya imperialis; Aristolochia grandiflora, with the huge blossoms of which, Humboldt says, the children adorn the head, in lieu of a hat or bonnet; Passion flowers, among them the Grenadilla, Æschynanthuses, &c.

Here, too, may be seen a group of different plants, especially characterised by the varied colouring or marking of the foliage, often called "painted-plants;" among them the Caricature Plant (Graptophyllum hortense), many of the spots of whose leaves bear a very accurate resemblance to the human face, more or less divine. fragrant Lemon-grass will be seen here (Andropogon Schananthus), admirably figured and described in Dr. Wallich's superb "Plantæ Asiaticæ Rariores," where the author observes, "This is a favourite herb with the Asiatics both for medicinal and culinary purposes, and is found to afford a drink generally very grateful to the palate in sickness. Dr. Maton, Physician Extraordinary to the late Queen (Charlotte), informed me that he had been repeatedly treated with a dish of Lemon-grass tea by her Majesty, who used to be very fond of it, and was supplied with the plant from the Royal Gardens at Kew." Its fragrance is exactly that of Lemon or Verbena triphylla. Here, too, the Patchouli or Pucha-pat of India (Pogostemon Patchouli), the most esteemed perfume of the present day. In a large earthen pan with water, may be seen here one of the most wonderful of all vegetable productions, the Lace- or Lattice-leaf of Madagascar (Ouviranda fenestralis) recently brought to us, living, by the Rev. W. Ellis. leaf is formed of longitudinal and transverse fibres, having no parenchyme or cellular substance in the interstices, which are thus open like the lattice of a window, or a piece of lace.

At the time we write may be found in this stove some rare Malayan Pitcher plants, though not so large as those in stove No. 11. (p. 45.); the beautiful and much rarer Australian Pitcher-Plant (Cephalotus follicularis of Brown, fig. 30.); and the still more singular Dionæa muscipula, or American fly-trap (fig. 31.), which has at the end of each leaf, as its name implies, a veritable living trap, consisting of two broad fleshy lobes, jointed in the middle, fringed with long spines, and furnished with two or three hairs on the disk of the



AUSTRALIAN PITCHER PLANT

lobes. The moment an insect (or any extraneous body) touches the hairs on the disk, the two lobes close firmly, and press the luckless intruder to death: the struggles of the victim only occasioning the lobes to shut more firmly, by which its destruction is hastened.

As soon as the insect ceases to struggle, and dies, the trap opens, ready to continue the work of destruction; but there is no reason

whatever to suppose that the dead insects in any way nourish the plant. Equally remarkable in the structure of the foliage are the Sarracenias (fig. 32.), or Side-saddle flowers, so called from the form of the stigma: they have tubular leaves containing a fluid. and inverted hairs at the mouth of the tube. Insects, in the native country of these plants especially, and not a few with us, are attracted by the fluid: the inverted hairs hasten the descent of the intruder, which falls into the fluid without chance of escape, and perishes.



We may now proceed westward; and observe a fine Hop-hornbeam (Ostrya vulgaris); further west is a noble tree of the Sophora Japonica. We may turn to the right, towards the principal cluster of Plant-houses, and we

observe on the left a large harsh, rigid-looking Pine, which cannot fail to attract the attention of the visitor: it is the famous Chili Pine (Araucaria imbricata), brought to England in the year 1792 by Mr. Menzies, the surgeon in Captain Vancouver's voyage: it now frequently bears its curious cones, but they never ripen with us. It is, perhaps, not generally known, that the seeds are eaten for dessert in Chili, as are those of the Stone Pine (Pinus Pinea) in Italy, and almonds with us. Westward of the Araucaria, upon



BARBACENIA

the same piece of lawn, and forming a striking contrast by its gracefulness, stands a splendid tree of the Weeping Birch of Scotland. From this spot we shall find it convenient to enter

SUCCULENT HOUSE. No. VII.

This is an excellent house of its kind, 200 feet long and 30 feet wide, recently (in the spring of 1856, completed, and destined for those plants, chiefly from warm (but not quite tropical) and dry countries, which are denominated by horticulturists Succulent Plants (Plantes grasses of the French). They include Cactuses, Aloes, American Aloes, many Euphorbias (Agaves), and other Amaryllidaceous plants, Crassulas, Sempervivums, Stapelias, &c. &c. Many of them are eminently worthy of notice.

1. The collection of Cactuses is perhaps unique of its kind, thanks to various friends in the warmer parts of the New World, of which

countries they are exclusively natives. If these plants do not possess much grace and beauty (their flowers, however, are often splendid in the extreme), yet they are very remarkable for the strange forms and structure of their, almost invariably, leafless stems and trunks, their deep longitudinal ribs or furrows and sharp angles, the singular vestiture of hairs or spines (or both combined). - the latter, often in countless myriads, are arranged with the most perfect symmetry in stellated or starshaped clusters, sometimes not thicker than bristles, and scarcely two lines long, or they are broad and transversely banded like lobsters' horns, at other



CACTUS TUNA.

times long and straight, and so strong as to serve the Mexicans to fasten their "ponchos" about their persons. Some species resemble the convolutions of the brain. One set is distinguished by their tall and curiously jointed and flattened stems; they are the *Opuntias* or *Nopals*, some of which yield the fruit much eaten in warm countries, under the name of *Indian Fig* or *Prickly Pear (Cactus Tuna*, fig. 33.), and their stems are used for making almost impenetrable fences (these are



called Tunas), or, as in the Cactus (or Opuntia) coccinellifer (fig. 34.), they are cultivated to an immense extent for the purpose of feeding the

cochineal insect, a small kind of meal-bug (seen in this house), reared in such quantities, that, from Mexico alone, Humboldt assures us 32,000 arrobas of cochineal are annually exported, equal to 500,000l. sterling. The insect has the power of extracting the juices, and converting them, by a chemical process, into the rich scarlet dye called Cochineal; but it is not so generally known that the fruits of the Nopals secrete the same colour, and excellent cochineal has been obtained from the fruit, as well as from the insect, in the East Indies. Another tribe of Cactuses resembles in form and spinous character the Sea-Urchins of our shores (Echinus), and is appropriately denominated Echinocactus. Here are good specimens of the Echinocactus Visnaga so called (Visnaga meaning a toothpick in Spanish) from the use made of the spines in Mexico; for which we are indebted to Frederick Staines. Ess.*

Here is a lofty specimen (together with many lesser ones) of the Old Man's Head Cactus (or Cereus senilis), 14 feet high. This species is called senilis, from the quantity of long wiry grey hair which crowns the summit (particularly observable in the younger

plants). Unlike the human kind, the old plants are less conspicuous by their grey hair than the young ones. For the means of procuring them we are indebted to John Taylor, Esq., and the Directors of the Real del Monte Company. Small plants of this species we know to be twenty and twenty-five years old: from their slowness of growth, as well as from the reports of the inhabitants of Mexico, there is reason to believe that these gigantic individuals are some hundreds (probably a thousand) of years old.

2. The true or African Aloes (fig. 35.) may next claim atten-



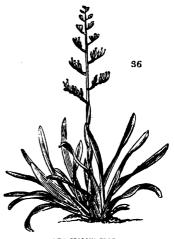
GROUP OF ALORS

^{*} Here we are anxious to record that the same gentleman did us the favour, with infinite labour, to send us a much more magnificent plant of this Cactus in 1846, and weighing one ton! It was planted, and looked sound and perfect, and was, for some months, the wonder of the Garden; and it found a place in the "Illustrated London News" of the day, where an excellent representation is given; but it had met with injury during its perilous journey or voyage; a bruise appeared; and decay soon extended through the whole of this enormous mass, tainting the air with its fetid smell

tion, of which more than one kind yields the medicinal Aloes of the shops. They are peculiar to Africa, and form a striking feature in the vegetation of South-eastern Africa, one species the Socotrine Aloe, extending to the island of Socotra.

Of the same natural family as this true Aloe is the New Zealand Flax (Phormium tenax, fig. 36.) Its leaves are like those of our Iris, or flag, and abound in a strong fibre, which recommends it for an immense variety of purposes where hemp or flax would be used in Europe.

3. Another extensive group of succulents is the Agave or American Aloe Family. The Agave Americana is familiar to most frequenters of gardens. It blossoms, not, as the story goes, only once in a hundred years, but, in reality, more frequently than other kinds, and throws up a flower-stem 20 to 24 feet high. The Plant-house we are now



NEW ZEALAND PLAX.

surveying contains one very large unknown species of Agave (marked "Agave, Mexico") with huge, sword-shaped, thick, and fleshy leaves: each of these leaves averages 12 pounds in weight. Two ancient specimens of another and not smaller sort, but which, we regret to say, can now only be seen in a young state, blossomed here in 1844, and attracted much attention: we mean the Agave vivipara of Linnæus (Fourcroya gigantea of modern authors, a name given in compliment to the French chemist, Fourcroy). The two plants in question had been in the Royal Gardens, first of Hampton Court and then of Kew, probably from the earliest introduction of the species into Europe, upwards of a century ago (in 1731). On one and the same day, in the summer of 1844, each was seen to produce a flowering-stem, which resembled a gigantic head of asparagus, and grew at first at the astonishing rate of two feet in the twenty-four hours. So precisely did the twin plants keep pace with each other, that at the very time it was found necessary to make an aperture in the glass roof of the house for the emission of one panicle of flowers (26 feet from the ground), a similar release was needed by the other. The rate of growth then most sensibly diminished; still, in two months, the flower-stalks had attained a height of 36 feet!

The flowers were innumerable on the great panicles: they produced no seed, but were succeeded by thousands of young plants, springing from the topmost branches (whence the Linnæan name of vivipara); and these continued growing while attached to the stem for a long while after the death of the parent-plants, both of which perished, apparently from exhaustion. Our collection now, therefore, contains young individuals chiefly of this particular Agave. All of this family yield fibre for cordage, cloth, &c., and the pulp is fermented and becomes an intoxicating drink.

4. A small collection of Stapelias or Carrion-flowers (fig. 37.) of South Africa, is here seen, whose quadrangular leafless stems bear

indeed some similarity to Cactuses, while their flowers resemble star-fish. Their odour is such that flies, attracted by it, lay eggs upon them in great numbers, taking them for putrid meat: the poor larvæ, when hatched, find the difference, for there is nothing for them to feed upon, and they perish in great numbers; thus it would appear that Stapelias are among the many plants destined by the Author



CARRION FLOWERS.

of nature to keep insect-life within due bounds.

5. Here is a remarkable plant from South Africa, a kind of Geranium (or Monsonia), remarkable for its resinous quality when dead, the Monsonia Burmanni (Geranium spinosum of Linnæus), of which the quantity is so great in the burning sands that it has been imported, in the hope of its proving valuable as an article of commerce. This particular plant, on its arrival, and for four years, had been to all appearance perfectly dead, and more than half converted into a gum-resinous substance, exhibiting only a few crooked dead-like branches. Suddenly, in the spring of 1850, it put forth leaves, and is full of life and vigour. (Only one plant has since died, and is preserved in the Museum.)

6. This house contains some leafless (and other) Euphorbias (figs. 38, 39.), whose forms a good deal resemble those of certain Cactuses, but whose milky juice is eminently poisonous, and extensively employed in South Africa for rendering mortal the wounds of arrows and assagays. E. splendens and E. Bojeri are distinguished

by their vivid scarlet flowers.

7. Some Sempervivums of the Canary isles are remarkable for their flattened crown of leaves; and lastly, we can only mention that





PHORBIA MELOFORMIS. EUPHO

there are some large *Bromeliaceous* and several *Amaryllidaceous* plants allied to the *Agaves* and others, though not very succulent in themselves.

Leaving this House by the western door, and looking north, we see the

HARDY AQUARIUM

(marked O on the plan), a stone tank of bog and water, containing hardy aquatic plants of England and other cool countries: among the more interesting are a few from the Falkland Islands and Tierra del Fuego, particularly the celebrated Tussack-Grass of the Falklands (Dactylis cæspitosa), introduced by Sir James Clark Ross and the officers of the Antarctic voyage. It is one of the most valuable coarse agricultural grasses, and, having braved the droughts and cold and heat of England for several years, there is no question that it may, with care and patience, be naturalized. It is slow of growth, and slower to form its great tussacks, whence is derived the name. They, together with the mass of foliage, constitute thickets where wild cattle and more wild runaway sailors find shelter and protection, and both obtain food; for it is related, by the late governor of those islands, that two runaway sailors for a long time subsisted on the raw young shoots of this grass, which are, moreover, brought to table, boiled like asparagus. Indeed the Tussack-Grass is now flourishing luxuriantly in the Orkney Islands and Hebrides, especially in Lewes, under the auspices of Sir James Matheson, M.P.; vicinity to the sea, an equable climate, and cool atmosphere being essential to it. Close to this tank is an entrance, by the western door, to

No. VIII. THE NEW ZEALAND AND CONIFEROUS HOUSE.

This venerable structure, erected by Sir W. Chambers in 1760, has

seen its best days, and, judging from the favourite reception lately given to the director's report in the House of Commons, we are warranted in believing that ere long instructions will be given by the Chief Commissioner of Works to replace it with another in the grounds more worthy of this establishment, and more suited to the purpose for which this is now destined, namely, the reception of Trees and Shrubs of temperate climates. The present contents in winter * are mainly Conifers and New Zealand Plants. but they are by no means confined to them; the collection is miscellaneous. and larger specimens of the same kinds, or some of them, are repeated in the Orangery (Plant House No. II.). Here are young plants of the Cowdie or Kauri Pine (Dammara australis), the Dacrydium cupressinum, whose feathery boughs perhaps exceed in delicacy and grace those of all other forest-trees; the Celery-leaved Pine (Phyllocladus trichomanoides); the very rare Thuja Doniana, Hook., a most elegant new Arbor vitæ of New Zealand : the Mai or Metai (Podocarpus spicata), and the Miro or Mairi (P. ferruginea); the Mammoth tree of California, Wellingtonia gigantea; together with the singular Aralia crassifolia, a kind of ivy, bearing long leaves, of a texture almost resembling whalebone. Here, too, are the Murtus bullata of New Zealand, with its blistery leaf; the charming Metrosideros robusta, which climbs over other trees like ivy, and adorns their otherwise bare trunks with its large glossy foliage and brilliant scarlet flowers; and the New Zealand Beech (Fagus fusca).

Here grow the two rare Beeches of Tierra del Fuego, Deciduous Beech (Fagus antarctica), and the Evergreen Beech (Fagus betuloides), the latter remarkable for its beauty and small evergreen foliage, scarcely larger than that of the broad-leaved myrtle, and for its being the most southern-growing tree in the world; indeed, but little vegetation of any kind exists beyond it. Its size and form, however, in its native region, depend on the place of growth. In sheltered valleys it attains a considerable size, with a trunk 7 feet in diameter, so that Captain Philip King made large boats from one trunk; while on the exposed heights of Hermite Island the trees are so dwarfish and stunted, and the branches so densely compacted, that the traveller is able literally to walk upon the tops of them! (One has been planted in the open lawn, and has stood the winter well; but we fear the summer's drought for it more than the wet or cold of winter.) Near them stands another rare Evergreen Beech, the Fagus Cunninghamii of Van Diemen's Land, and the still rarer Huon Pine (Dacrydium Franklinii) of the same country. In the spring and summer a delicious pine-apple like fragrance is often perceived by the visitor at

^{*} One end of this House is temporarily occupied with a noble Tree-ferm of New Zealand (Cyathea medullaris), recently presented by H. R. H. the Prince Albert.

the west end of this House: it is diffused by the blossoms of the Chinese Magnolia fuscata. Young plants of the Argan tree (Argania Sideroxylon), of Morocco, is placed in this House. It possesses no beauty, but its fruits are very valuable, in the husks for feeding cattle, and in the nut for the copious oil. The wood, too, is beautiful.

Here will be found several South African plants, some Proteacea *

of the Cape colony, in which plants the Garden was formerly very rich; but they gradually died out; and, strange to say, although the botany of South Africa has been of late years investigated beyond that of every other part of the world, seeds and living plants have been almost wholly neglected; so that in the plants of no country are these and other



European gardens more deficient than in those of South Africa. An idea may be formed from the woodcut (fig. 40.) of the beauty of some that have formerly flourished in this Garden, few now remaining, and of all of which we should be thankful again to receive seeds. The most beautiful of the Cape Proteacea, namely, Leucodendron argenteum, is the common firewood of the colony. Protea mellifera and others yield a honey which is boiled down and used in coughs. In Chili, one species, Quadria heterophylla, yields an esculent nut, sold in the markets under the name of Avellano: and this will be found in the present House.

Gnaphaliums and Xeranthemums, shrubby Everlasting-Flowers (fig. 41.), are so called from the nature of their blossoms, which neither shrivel, nor, for a long time after being gathered, lose their brilliant colours. Not unfrequently, in one part of this House, a powerful foxy odour is perceptible. This arises from several kinds of Diosma or Bucku, a favourite cosmetic of the Hottentots in S. Africa, who mix it with



grease, and smear it over their persons to keep away flies.

^{*} Now removed to the Conservatory, No. 1.

Quitting this House at the eastern door, and passing an oval bed, filled with the exotic-looking yet hardy Yuccas (or Adam's Needles), the nearest Plant-house is a low building with a span roof, of which the entrance is at the east end; viz.

No. IX. A PROPAGATING HOUSE,

with a double span roof. Unless it contains, as at some seasons, any thing of peculiar interest, it is kept private, and is now almost entirely occupied with numerous young Palms from various countries, and Ferns, and seedlings of various sorts, aquatics, Victoria regia, Nymphæas, &c., and young plants of the rare Doum Palm (Hyphæne Thebaica, from Upper Egypt, sent home by Dr. Hooker), and the still rarer Hyphæne coriacea, from South-eastern Africa; but both kinds are most difficult to rear. Opposite to the door is an entrance to

No. X. THE AUSTRALIAN HOUSE,

a cruciform structure of large dimensions and excellent arrangement, is at all times occupied by plants of interest and beauty, and if the visitor happens to come at the latter end of winter, or in early spring, he cannot fail to be struck with the variety and fragrance of the inmates of this building. It is filled at those seasons with an unique collection of plants of Australia.



The Leguminosæ are in perfection during the early spring months; then the fragrant Acacias (fig. 42.) are eminently worthy of a visit. The New Holland Acacias, as is well known to naturalists, exhibit a remarkable conformation of foliage. In other countries their leaves are perfect, having the normal character, more or less compound and

pinnate, with numerous leaflets: but in the innumerable species from Australia (with some exceptions) the seed-leaves only are compound; as they advance in age they cast off the leaflets, and at length the plant produces only leaf-stalks, which widen, and have the appearance, and perform the functions of, true leaves. These leaf-stalks (called phyllodia) are easily recognised by their position: it is not the flat surface, but one of the edges, which is vertical, or directed to the zenith.

In the summer, these Australian plants are removed to the open air, the House is filled with various plants of a still more ornamental character, and of the greatest floral beauty.

No. XI. THE TROPICAL FERN HOUSE,

is situated due north of, and close to, the Australian House. It is hence most conveniently approached from the east. Passing through a small porch, a span-house is entered, 90 feet long and 28 feet wide, glazed with sheet-glass, having a double slate staging in the middle, facing north and south, with a walk through the centre, and another walk on the outside and around the staging, with stone shelving under the walls. This fine area is occupied with Ferns to which the heat and moisture of this place are suited. The Ferns constitute a very valuable collection, and nothing can exceed the variety, beauty, and elegance of the leaves or fronds. Some of the smaller and finelydivided kinds are clothed on the underside with a delicate yellow pulverulent substance, others with a white powder. The "Great Stag's Horn Fern" (Platycerium grande) is one of the most remarkable in appearance and form, together with P. stemmaria and the well known Pl. alcicorne, or Common Stag's Horn Fern. The first (Pl. grande), a native of Australia, where it grows on the trunks of trees. The young stage of it is a small green leaf or frond lying flat against the soil, lobed and divided at the margin something like a stag's horn. It thickens with every succeeding growth of leaf, and this addition is alternately right and left over the older leaves, which die and contribute to the nourishment of the plant. These are the sterile fronds. The plant bears another kind of frond, projecting and even drooping, narrowed at the base, broad and two-lobed above, and beneath bearing a great brown spot of fructifications. This rare plant was presented to us by the late Mr. Bidwill. A second plant he sent over was purchased by the late Duke of Northumberland for twenty-five guineas. Larger, and especially "Tree" Ferns, which cannot be accommodated in this House, will be found in the adjacent one, No. 12., which communicates with it.

In this tropical Fern-house, as admirably promoting their health and vigour, are our finest and oldest specimens of *Pitcher-Plants*, the *Nepenthes distillatoria* (fig. 43.), and the infinitely rarer *N. Rafflesiana*: the latter was successfully brought home from Singapore in a Ward's-case by Captain Bethune, R.N., and by him presented to the Royal Gardens. Both species are more or less scandent. The

leaves are terminated with an appendage exactly resembling a pitcher. of considerable size, having a lid at the top. When young, the lid is firmly closed, yet, even at that period, it contains a considerable quantity of fluid, distilled, as it were, by the plant (whence is derived the name of the species in more general cultivation): after a time the lid opens, and continues firmly attached at the back of the orifice by a hinge, and never again closes. With us in the summer season. and in its native Malayan islands at all seasons, insects visit the pitchers in great numbers to get to the liquor.



PITCHER PLANT.

fall in, and from the difficulty of escape are drowned, sometimes filling the entire cavity. — Other lesser species of *Pitcher-plant* are seen in House No. 6.

No. XII. AMHERSTIA HOUSE.

So called because it contains the noble specimen of Amherstia nobilis (presented by the late Mrs. Lawrence), of which younger plants are here also. It is occupied by a miscellaneous collection of tropical plants, and among them our finest Ferns occupy a conspicuous place, especially (though young) Tree Ferns, which are among the rarest and most valuable; of all plants they are the most difficult to import alive, except while very young. In our country, Ferns are of humble stature, their leaves, or fronds, emerging directly from the ground; but in the tropics, and even in the more temperate parts of the southern hemisphere, these fronds, 15 to 20 feet long, are elevated on unbranched trunks (resembling Palms), 20 to 40 and 50 feet high. Here are splendid specimens of the rare Fern Angiopteris evecta, with its gigantic foliage, and curiously knotted short trunk.

A portion of the side-shelves in one part of the House is occupied with an extensive collection of the genus Begonia, whose highly ornamental foliage preserves, "amid a hundred modifications," its

peculiar character of obliquity, whence the plants are not inaptly named Elephant's Ears; the species, too, possess a great recommendation in producing their delicate pink, or white, or even crimson blossoms at different seasons; so that one or other kind may be seen in blossom all the year round. Another portion of the side shelves contains the different plants of the Pepper kind, among which will be remarked the true Pepper Plant of our tables (Piper nigrum, fig. 44.). and the valuable styptic



PEPPER PLANT.

Piper angustifolium, Ruiz and Pav., called Matico by the Peruvians, and the Cubeb (Piper Cubeba).

Due south of the Stove No. 12. we have just been describing, we can, at the northern door, enter a rather small House in the form of a T, a double span-roofed structure;

Nos. XIII., XIV. THE HEATH HOUSE.

No. 13. the northern wing, and No. 14. the transverse portion.

This is, in part, occupied by a collection of Cape Heaths (fig. 45.).

Here are several species of the beautiful genus Epacris, which



may be called the Heaths of Australia, being nearly allied to the Ericeæ, and perhaps of superior beauty. Even on the outside of this House are some attractive objects.

For example, on the east and west sides of No. 13. are Frames' containing a miscellaneous collection. That on the east side, in summer, exhibits a noble specimen of Erythrina laurifolia, with large coral-coloured papilionaceous flowers; in summerone of the most striking of our half-hardy shrubs. On the west side the frame contains Cape Bulbs. On the outside again, in a narrow bed immediately under the front of this house (facing the south), with other tender plants, are the three kinds of Tea, much cultivated by the Chinese, the Black Tea (Thea Bohea, fig. 46.), the Green Tea (Thea viridis), and the Sasanqua Tea (Thea, or Camellia, Sasanqua, fig. 47.).* The last





BLACK TEA.

SASANQUA TEA.

seems only to be grown in China for the sake of the oil; while from the Green and the Black Tea Shrubs of botanists it is generally acknowledged that the Chinese make the green or black tea of commerce indifferently, according to the modes of preparation. In mild winters they may be seen blossoming in the open air so late as Christmas.

Opposite, that is, on the other side of the walk, west of the Heath-house, are two or three interesting hardy trees or shrubs. Sheltered by the old Stove, No. 8., and at its eastern end, stands a fine shrub of the Japanese *Photinia serrulata*, a charming evergreen, seldom bearing flower in this climate. Climbing above it, on the east and north side of the walls of the stove, is a noble plant of the old Glycine (now called Wistaria) Sinensis, whose innumerable clusters of blue flowers



SALISBURIA ADIANTIPOLIA.

^{*} These Tea plants have been recently removed to a south wall, facing the Old Museum.

(in shape like those of Laburnum) are very striking in the early spring, before the leaves are unfolded. north) is a very aged trunk of the singular Japanese "Ginkgo," or Salisburia adiantifolia (fig. 48.), whose leaves are shaped like a fan, with a deep notch at the top: and next to that again is the Terebinth Tree (Pistacia Terebinthus, fig. 49.), considered by some commentators the El-Flah of Scripture (generally translated Oak): it yields the

It will be desirable to retrace our steps a little if we wish to visit some objects in the portion of ground formerly the Royal Kitchen and Forcing-Grounds, and

Scian turpentine, a rare gum, mostly

consumed in the Levant.

Next to that (proceeding



we shall find a walk on the east side of the Succulent House (No. 7.), which conducts the stranger in an easterly direction into the HERBA-CEOUS GROUND, or general collection of hardy exotic herbaceous plants, including Grasses, systematically arranged and intermixed with shrubs and ornamental trees upon the lawn. The same piece of ground contains several Plant-houses, also a building, formerly a fruit-house to the Kitchen-Garden, but converted into a

. MUSEUM,

destined to receive specimens of Fruits and Seeds (dried or preserved in pyroligneous acid, or alcohol), Gums, Resins, Drugs, Dyestuffs. Sections of Wood - in short, all interesting vegetable products, particularly those that are useful to mankind, in the Arts, in Medicine, and in Domestic Economy; substances which neither the living plants nor the Hortus Siccus can exhibit. But as there is a separate little book published, a Guide to the Objects in this and the New MUSEUM, we shall omit the mention of them here, and proceed to

No. XV. MUSEUM STOVE,

situated at the back, or south side, of the Museum, filled with a choice miscellaneous collection of tropical plants, and climbers trained to the back of the wall and rafters. In this House are several, both of an useful as well as ornamental character. Here are the Nutmeg (Myristica officinalis, fig. 50. page 50.), which yields both nutmeg and mace, spices, of which the consumption is so great, that, according to Stavorinus, of the former 250,000 lb., and of the latter (mace) 90,000 lb., were sold annually in Europe alone; the Clove (Caryophyllus aromaticus, fig. 51.), which valued spice is the flower-bud, in shape resembling a nail, whence the Spaniards, who discovered the tree, called it Clava, the French Clou, the English Clove; the best Caoutchoue Tree (Siphonia elastica), from Pará; the Upas or Poison-Tree of Java (Antiaris toxicodendron), to whose well-authenticated virulence it has been the pleasure of poets and travellers to add many a horrifying imaginary incident*; the famous Cow Tree, or Palo de Vaca (Galactodendron utile of Humboldt), native of the Caraccas, abounding in a milky juice, which



is drawn into gourds by tapping, and given to children as we give them cow's milk; the Xanthochymus pictorius of Roxburgh, the

fruits of which ripen even with us, and yield, on puncturing, a juice which concretes into one kind of Gamboge, the most powerful of drastic medicines, and affording the brightest and best known of yellow colours; the rare Napoleonea imperialis, and the very beautiful Gardenia Stanleyana from Sierra Leone, of which still finer plants are in the Palm-stove; the singular Lace Bark Tree (Lagetta lintearia) from Jamaica, whose layers of inner bark (there are as many as the portion of the tree yielding it is years old) resemble, without any artificial preparation, exquisite lace; the Indian Teak (Tectona grandis), extensively



used in ship-building, and the equally useful and much rarer African Teak, or African Oak (Oldfieldia Africana); the celebrated Gutta Percha plant (Isonandra Gutta), kindly sent by Dr. Oxley, from Singapore; Bitter Quassia (Quassia amara); the Vanilla plant; the

^{*} In addition to the injurious property of this plant, it is known to grow in low valleys of the island, rendered unwholesome by an excess of carbonic acid gas, which escapes from crevices in the ground. In this atmosphere man and beast who unwarily enter, and birds that attempt to fly over (for the gas is said to reach a height of 18 feet from the ground), fall down dead, and the bottoms of such situations are often strewed with the carcasses of various animals which have perished thus, and not from the effects of the Upas.

Malayan Mangostan (Garcinia Mangostanu, fig. 52.), the rich fruit of which we vainly strive to bring to perfection in our stoves. Here also may be seen the Bread-Fruit of the Pacific Isles (Artocarpus incisa, fig. 53.).

Perhaps the greatest rarity in this House is the famous Rice-paper Plant of the Chinese, from the island of Formosa, with great difficulty procured for us by Sir John Bowring. A Case in the Museum explains the nature of the beautiful and well-known papyraceous substance. Two



kinds of moving plants are here (on the front shelf) well worthy of notice in the summer months; one the Humble-Plant, Mimosa



BREAD-FRUIT TREE.

pudica (often, though incorrectly, called the Sensitive plant, which is Mimosa sensitiva):

"Weak with nice sense the chaste Mimosa stands, From each rude touch withdraws her timid hands. Oft as light clouds o'erpass the summer glade, Alarm'd, she trembles at the moving shade, And feels, alive through all her tender form, The whisper'd murmurs of the gathering storm, Shuts her sweet eyelids to approaching night, And hails with freshen'd charms the rising light."

The best way to exhibit the sensitive properties, so called, of the

leaves, is to cut off suddenly and cautiously the tip of one of the terminal leaflets, when all the other leaflets on that stalk will close, a pair at a time, from above downwards; thence the impulse is continued to the adjoining stalks and to the leaflets from below upwards; and then the whole leaf will fall. The other is the Desmodium gyrans, usually called the Moving Plant; in Bengal the Telegraph Plant. Here the movement is voluntary, so to say, not influenced by touch, only requiring a calm, warm atmosphere. The leaves consist of three leaflets, one large terminal one, and two small lateral ones. The latter alone are endowed with this wonderful property. There are some or other of them always in motion, by jerks and in circles, or gyrations, in one direction, so as to return to the same point.

'Nos. XVI. & XVII. MISCELLANEOUS TROPICAL HOUSES.

A double stove now occupied by tropical plants, having a bark-pit for rearing certain tropical plants which will not bear too much moisture. Here will probably be seen the Double-Cocoa-Nut of the Seychelles (Lodoicea Sechellarum, presented by Professor Bojer), Gutta Percha (Isonandra Gutta); young plants of Mangostan, Xanthochymus, Nutmegs; the rare medicinal Bark (Cinchona Calisaya), Wedd.; Mammea Apple (Mammea Americana), Borassus flabelliformis, or Great Fan-Palm of India, most difficult to rear; the Cow-Tree of Humboldt, Durians, Upas, &c.; and on the rafters Dipladenias (Harrisii and speciosa), Combretums, Hoyas, &c.

No. XVIII. AZALEA HOUSE.

Besides Azaleas, other miscellaneous plants are placed here in summer and autumn.

No. XIX. AROIDEOUS HOUSE,

so called because it is mainly occupied with this family of plants, many of which are remarkable for their esculent properties, combined with a powerful poison. The tropics abound with them; and even England yields one kind (our Arum or Wake-Robin), which, both in appearance and qualities, may be considered a type of the rest. It is characteristic of the family that the juices are poisonous, often eminently so; but those juices being removed by cooking, the foliage and farinaceous tubers become esculent and wholesome:

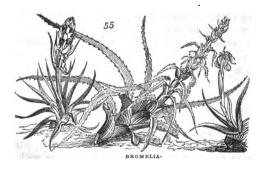
the former is eaten boiled in India under the name of Indian Kale, the latter in various warm countries as a substitute for bread: the Arum Colocasia, or Egyptian Arum (fig. 54.), for example, in Egypt and the East, and the Arum esculentum in the West Indies. Our own Arum maculatum is commonly collected in the South of England, especially in Portland Island, and the roots made into pastry or used as Arrow-root. Caladium Seguinum is the Dumb Cane of the West Indies; so called because a small quantity of its juice, dropped upon the tongue, causes that organ to swell violently, and prevents the power of speech. A peculiar aspect is exhibited by all the individuals of the Aroideæ, in-



EGYPTIAN ARUM.

dependent of botanical character. Hence the importance of seeing in a garden, plants grouped according to their natural affinities, as illustrative of their properties; and this we have attempted to do in many instances in the vast collections of this garden.

Besides the Aroideous plants, which we have now briefly noticed, we have here several of these *Bromeliaceous* and the *Scitamineous plants*, both containing many useful properties. Of the first of these the

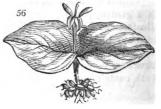


Bromeliaceæ or Pine-Apple family (fig. 55.), the larger kinds have leaves pre-eminently adapted to the purpose which the plant serves in Mexico and the warm parts of South America, that of making fences. Each leaf, long and sword-shaped, may be seen to have its edges armed with exceedingly sharp hooked spines; those on the upper half of the leaf curve towards the intruder, as if to forbid approach in that direction; while, if he has unfortunately penetrated some way in

spite of these innumerable and formidable opponents, the downward curve (towards the centre of the plant) of the remainder of the spines will prevent his egress, except at the sacrifice of the skin and flesh by these strong hooks. The kind which yields the well-known esculent fruit is the Bromelia Ananas. Allied to the true Bromelias are the Tillandsias, which we often receive from tropical countries, and they succeed well with us, attached to truncheons of wood (for they are Epiphytes, like the Orchideæ), until the flowering is past, and then they almost invariably wither: we need, therefore, a frequent importation of them. The leaves of many are singularly hollowed at the base, and in the driest weather filled with water, which often proves serviceable to man and animals. Some larger kinds of Bromeliaceæ are in the Palm-house, and some in the Aloe-house.

The Scitamineæ, contained in this House, include a good many Spices and Medicinal Plants. Among them we may specify the

well-known Galangale (Kæmpferia Galanga, fig. 56.), the Arrow-root (Maranta arundinacea), the various kinds of Indian Shot (Canna), Phrynium, and Hedychium, with their large and fragrant flowers, Alpinia, Ginger (the tuberous roots of Zinziber officinale), Turmeric and Zedoary (both species of Curcuma), Cardamoms (Amomum), &c.



KÆMPFERIA GALANGA.

Some of the smaller kinds of Screw-Pines (Pandanus), and fine specimens of the genus Carludovica, are here also, the lesser kinds of Strelitzias, and some other monocotyledonous plants.

No. XX. TEMPERATE FERNERY,

stored with such Ferns as do not require the tropical heat of those of the Houses Nos. 11, 12. The north aspect of this House is favourable to the growth of these plants, and to such kinds that are natives of temperate climates, Madeira, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, &c., &c. The House has a few other kinds of plants, among them the rare and handsome-flowered *Lapageria rosea*, from South Chili.

No. XXI. RHODODENDRON AND CAMELLIA HOUSE;

occupied by many tender Rhododendrons, including Dr. Hooker's Sikhim Himalayan ones, Camellias, Oranges, and a very mixed collection of plants of temperate climates, such as tender Mahonias, the green, black and Assam Teas, Paraguay Tea (Ilex Paraguensis, fig. 57.), no Tea indeed, but, as its scientific name implies, a kind of Holly; yet, under the name of Maté, it affords a beverage almost as extensively used in South America as Bohea, Souchong, or Hyson are in Europe.



ILEX PARAGUENSIS-

No. XXII. DOUBLE PROPAGATING HOUSE,

kept private; chiefly occupied by numerous young plants reared from seeds, cuttings for striking, and newly-imported plants.

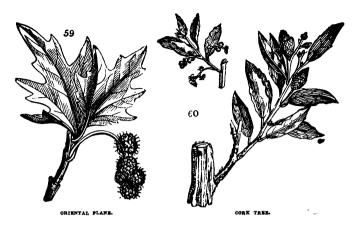
And now it may be well to return in a westerly direction, past the Houses 11 and 12, where we can enter the Old Arboretum, near a handsome architectural building, The Temple of the Sun. This is a nearly circular piece of ground (see the Plan), consisting of about five acres, crowded with hardy trees of much interest and value, more than can possibly be here enumerated. Close by the

Temple of the Sun are noble specimens of the Turkey Oak (Quercus Cerris), a Cedar of Lebanon (Cedrus Libani, fig. 58.), the Oriental Plane (Platanus orientalis, fig. 59.), a very large Locust Tree (Robinia Pseudacacia), a Lotus of North America (Diospyros Virginiana), a fragrant Sassafras (Laurus Sassafras), and a healthy though young Cork Tree (Quercus Suber, fig. 60.), two very large trees of this were blown down in a gale during George III.'s reign; a large Koelreuteria, &c. This Arboretum is circumscribed by a walk: by taking that which leads us past the temple, we approach the east end of the



CEDAR

Orangery on the way to the principal entrance, among good exotic trees, American Limes, Oaks, Hickories, Red and Yellow-flowered Horse-chestnuts, &c.



In the other direction, due north from Stove No. 12., we pass several interesting trees of another description. To the right is a fine Woolly-fruited Maple of North America (Acer eriocarpum): a little further, and near a private walk leading to the residence of Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cambridge, and to the Directors' rooms, stands conspicuously a Weeping Willow (Salix Babylonica), derived from the original tree now destroyed, at Napoleon's tomb. St. Helena: the Red Maple of the United States (Acer rubrum). the Manna Ash (Fraxinus Ornus), from which exudes the Manna of the shops; the Glastonbury Thorn, a variety of the common Thorn (Cratægus Oxyacantha), of which the origin was said to be a staff from the Thorn used for crowning our Saviour, which Joseph of Arimathea stuck into the ground at Glastonbury, when it immediately sent forth leaves and flowers! Be that as it may, this tree is remarkable for bearing foliage almost throughout the year, and it flowers, if the season be mild, in winter as well as in spring. There is also a beautiful young tree of the Deciduous Cypress of Mexico and the Southern United States (Taxodium distichum), which, in its native country, attains to an enormous size, 90 feet in the girth of its trunk, and to a great age: the identical tree at Chapultipec, under which Montezuma was accustomed to sit previously to the conquest of Mexico, is yet living, and known as the Cypress of Montezuma. Here, on the left, are fine old Celtises, and the Paper Birch of

North America (Betula papyrifera). Proceeding towards the entrance gate, we pass the ruin of a stately Cedar, of which the main portion was carried away by a gale in 1841, and now completely destroyed (while in a sickly state) by the severe spring of 1854; so that nothing remains but the majestic trunk, which we propose to preserve and clothe with ivy; its age is estimated at about 130 years; and many rare Pines from different countries, in various stages of growth. Among them the Deodar (Cedrus Deodara) ranks pre-eminent, a tree rivalling if not excelling in beauty the Common Cedar, and equally hardy, from the mountains of Northern India: this specimen is among the very first reared in Europe. from seeds brought home and presented to the Garden by the late Honourable W. Henry Melville. As the gates of Solomon's Temple at Jerusalem, and those of St. Peter's at Rome, are said to have been made of the Cedar of Lebanon, so it has been ascertained, and I believe on sure authority, that the gates of the Temple of Somnauth are constructed of the Indian Cedar or Deodar. Abies Webbiana, Smithii, Douglasii; the Stone Pine (Pinus Pinea), which is the Pine of Claude Lorraine's Italian landscapes: a very fine Corsican Pine (P. Laricio), and the much rarer species, P. Coulteri, macrocarpa, and Sabiniana from the Pacific side of North America, also find place here.

After the inspection of these, the visitor will find himself returned to the gate on the Green by which he had entered.

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