

## NOTES ON NEW FERNS.



**ADIANTUM ELEGANTISSIMUM**, shown by Mr. B. S. Williams at the great exhibition at Bath, is as new in aspect as it is in name; although, to speak the truth, the name would suit almost any adiantum. This, however, is peculiarly distinct, and might be likened to the inflorescence of a grass, such, for example, as *Agrostis nebulosa*, so minute are the pinnules, and so light and cloud-like the whole texture of the plant. For a warm house it is a most desirable fern, and it will probably prove of the utmost value in dinner-table decorations.

**ADIANTUM SPECIOSUM**.—This adiantum is as new in look as the last-named, but in quite a different style, for here we have the bold habit and large pinnules that characterize the lovely Farleyense, but different in detail, and likely to prove in every way acceptable. The fronds are large and leafy, spreading out gracefully with distinct purplish rachis, and large, flat, regularly-scolloped pinnules of a greyish-green colour. This was well shown by Messrs. Veitch and Son, of King's Road, Chelsea, at the recent exhibition at Bath.

**ADIANTUM PERUVIANUM**.—This novelty of Messrs. Veitch and Son is of the princely kind, for it actually excels in nobleness and richness the well-known *A. trapeziforme*. It is a strong grower, with large, arching, pendant fronds, and large green pinnules of a sub-trapeziform outline. The fronds are supported by black, glossy stems or stipites, which do not rise from a crown but from a spreading caudex, and which arch over outwards in the most elegant manner. It is one of the grandest ferns known for a warm fernery.

**ADIANTUM AMABILE**.—Messrs. Veitch and Son obtained this fine fern through their late collector Mr. Pearce, and it constitutes a beautiful memorial of the successful botanical traveller who fell a victim to one of the customary accidents of his dangerous calling. The fronds are of fair size, averaging fifteen inches in length by ten inches in breadth; the pinnules are large in proportion, and of a lovely light-green colour. When the young fronds are rising, the plant emits an agreeable perfume. It is a cool-stove or intermediate-house fern.

**SCOLOPENDRIUM VULGARE AUREUM**.—We have been acquainted with this fern for some years, and yet we feel bound to speak of it as new, for it is yet but little known; although, for our own part, we have known it long enough to speak of it as constant in its peculiarity. It is a hart's-tongue fern of good form, very nearly resembling crispum, but differing from others of the genus in being of a beautiful golden-green colour. When planted in the cool fernery it is peculiarly distinct and attractive.

**PTERIS SERRULATA CORYMBIFERA**.—The typical *P. serrulata* is a weed that no one is bound to love. Several of its crested and crisped varieties are little better than weeds, and are really not worth cultivating. But this one is a grand and glorious tasselled fern, with erect fronds, which terminate in dense, bright-green

corymbose heads of an exceedingly rich character. It is a fine Wardian case and dinner-table fern, and well adapted for exhibition. We met with it in the nursery of Mr. B. S. Williams, Upper Holloway.

**PTERIS SERRULATA DIXONI.**—This is a grand companion-plant to the last-named, and in every way its equal in merit, though somewhat different. It grows rather tall, and the fronds spread out into crisped tassels six inches wide, and four inches thick, the colour a brilliant grassy-green. This is in the possession of Messrs. Dixon and Co., Amhurst Nurseries, Amhurst Road, Hackney.

**LOMARIA GIBBA CRISPA.**—A superb variety of one of the finest ferns in cultivation. This, we believe, is the variety raised some five years ago by Messrs. Cole, of Withington, which we remember having to adjudicate upon when it was in a very small state, and then had a most charming appearance. We have lately seen large specimens, and they are wonderfully distinct and beautiful, the fronds being crisped their whole length, and crested at the tips.

S. H.

#### A FEW WORDS ON THE CRYSTAL PALACE ROSE SHOW.

BY W. D. PRIOR, ESQ.



ALMOST the first question asked by those interested in roses, not present at any of the great shows, is, "Was it a good one?" To the exhibition in question it might be answered relatively, Yes! absolutely, No! according to the stand-point from which it might be viewed. Whatever shortcomings, however, were manifest on the occasion, were neither owing to the "Company" nor to exhibitors, but to the precarious character of our English springs, always more or less abounding in cold winds and night frosts, which act most prejudicially on those incipient buds from which ordinarily the show boxes of June are supplied. This year several nights towards the end of May were particularly detrimental to the young buds in the rosery, placing many well-known exhibitors utterly *hors de combat*, as the gaps on the "tables" abundantly proved. Of course there were many beautiful specimens to gratify spectators, which must necessarily be the case when the picked produce of some of the most celebrated nurseries in the kingdom are brought together, but they were fewer in number and more unequal in quality and development than on several previous occasions, and several noted exhibitors were absent altogether. Indeed, considering the enormous pressure on the Company's resources in preparing for the Shah's visit on the Monday—a *dies non*, Sunday, intervening—it would perhaps have been better to have postponed the show. However, everybody appeared in a gratified and admiring mood, which, considering the feast of beauty spread before their eyes, was not surprising, espe-