

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-

cially as it was not altogether a Barmecidal feast, visitors being allowed, after six o'clock, to purchase the favourites from the stands, and so inspect their perfections at leisure at home. This forms a perquisite to the rosemen. The table decorations, likewise, were far less numerous than usual. We were struck with the monotony of arrangement and the lack of invention displayed by even the best. It appears impossible for exhibitors in this class of the ornamental application of flowers to get beyond the stereotyped Marchian vase in glass, a centre piece, one smaller at each end, some with little pitchers attached thereto containing a little sprig—a most *jeune* idea. Then there are the slender finger-glass receptacles, one for each guest, to take up and smell its contents during the intervals of the repast, if not knocked down, and the water distributed over the cloth. The use of grasses, too, appears carried to an excess. There was a diminution in the number of the “lac” or “riviere” ornaments, which are designs with looking-glass bottoms, an abomination to good taste. In only one instance was there a departure from the general arrangement, which deserves to be recorded, in the design from Mrs. Hudson, of Champion Hill. It consisted of three young palms, the largest in the centre, springing from a base of cut roses, sweet peas, heaths, and sprays of maidenhair. In our opinion this ought to have had all the prizes.

Taking the roses as roses through, *Baroness Rothschild* took first honours. The following were amongst the best in their several lines of colour:—

**DARKEST** (up to *Charles Lefebvre*).—*Souvenir de Dr. Jamin*, *Prince Camille de Rohan*, *Louis Van Houtte*, *M. Boconne*, *Jean Cherpin*, *Pierre Notting*, *Vulcan*, plum; *Emperor de Maroc*, a fine bloom of *Louis XIV.*, *Xavier Olibo*.

**CRIMSON SCARLET TO BRIGHT CARMINE**.—*Charles Lefebvre*, *Duke of Edinburgh*, *Alfred Colomb*, *Senateur Vaisse*, a fine bloom or two of *Jacqueminot*, *Dr Andry*, *Comtesse d'Oxford*, *Francois Treyve*, *Marie Baumann*, *Ferdinand Lesseps*, *Marie Rady*, *Horace Vernet*, *Camille Bernardin*, *La Motte Sanguine*.

**CARMINE TO LIGHT ROSE**.—*Jules Margottin*, several good blooms; *John Hopper*, very fine; *Victor Verdier*, amongst the largest; *Marquise de Castellane*, one of our finest varieties; *Clemence Joigneaux*, *La Fontaine*, old; *Therese Levet*, *Elie Morel*, *Edouard Morren*, *Monsieur Noman*, *Comtesse de Chabrilland*, *Madame Furtad*, a marvel of form, but a bad grower.

**PALE ROSE TO TINTED WHITE**.—*Abel Grand*, *Anna Alexieff*, *La France*, *Lyonnais*, *Mdlle. E. Verdier*, *Reine du Midi*, *Felix Genero*, *Clothilde Rolland*.

In these last two sections it would almost form a catalogue to give a complete list of all noteworthy varieties; those named were especially fine.

The best **YELLOW**s were *Marechal Niel*, largely and well shown; *Gloire de Dijon*, *C. Forestier*, *Triomphe de Rennes*, *Mons. Margottin*. A stand of twelve clusters of *Persian Yellow* were interesting and remarkable. *Devoniensis*, *Souvenir d'un Ami*, *Souvenir d'Elise*, and several favourite teas, were well represented.



*Souvenir de la Malmaison* was unequal. New roses were below the mark. The best appeared to be *Abbé Bramerel*, flowers of the Eugene Appert class, but superior; *Baron de Bonstetten*, after Monsieur Boncenne; *Baronne L. Uxkull*, carmine rose; *Etienne Levet*, after Victor Verdier; *Lyonnais*, pink; *Prince Stirby*, somewhat like Mdle. E. Verdier or La France, but a different shade of colour. *Annie Laxton* struck us as being no improvement on kinds we have enough of. Messrs. Paul and Son sent a new hybrid assimilated to the teas. From the wood it appears of a climbing habit: we must see more of it before pronouncing a definite opinion upon its merits. The same firm put up a pretty collection of convenient sized pot-roses. We have a shrewd suspicion that many of the best blooms upon the tables were cut from similar plants.

## THE MANAGEMENT OF FRUIT-HOUSES IN AUTUMN.

BY WILLIAM COLE,

Head Gardener, Ealing Park, Middlesex.



THE management of fruit trees, grown under glass, is exceedingly simple after the crops have been gathered, but they must not, as is so frequently done, be left to take care of themselves from the time of the crops reaching maturity until the trees are pruned in the winter. The tree, it should be understood, has only done a portion of its allotted work when its crop is brought to maturity, for it has to produce a supply of fruit-bearing wood for next year, and it can only do this when maintained in a thriving condition by a proper system of management.

In the management of fruit trees, such as the peach, nectarine, and plum, the main essentials are to keep them properly supplied with water at the root, and the foliage clean by giving them a thorough washing by means of the garden-engine or syringe occasionally. Unless this is done, the foliage will become infested with red spider, and fall off prematurely, and the flower-buds be imperfectly formed in consequence. Trees in pots should, for the purpose of reducing the labour as much as possible, be moved to an open position out of doors, and loose material of some kind packed about the pots to prevent the too rapid evaporation of the moisture from the soil. They will require watering, of course, but the night dews and the rains will render syringing overhead well-nigh unnecessary. Trees planted out must be exposed as fully as possible by opening all the ventilators and doors to the fullest extent; and in all cases where the roofs are formed of movable sashes, they should be taken off, and put on again about the end of November. The borders must be kept in a nice moist condition, for even when the trees are perfectly at rest the soil must not be allowed to become dust-dry. If the trees appear to be growing with too great a degree of vigour, they may be checked by keeping the border in a drier