

THE GREAT SPOTTED IRIS.

The family of *iridaceæ* are renowned for their graceful beauty, from the wild iris, commonly called blue flag (*fleur de luce, fleur de Louis*, the armorial device of the kings of France since Louis VII.'s time) to the great spotted iris, of which we herewith give an engraving. The *iris versicolor* is a widely distributed plant, its flowers (on stems sometimes 3 feet high) being visible in damp places in early summer; the root of this plant is diuretic and cathartic, and is prepared for medical purposes by some pharmacists. There is also a yellowish or reddish brown species, *i. cuprea*, common in Illinois and other States. The well known orris root of the drug stores is the product of *i. Florentina*, *i. pallida*, and *i. Germanica*, which grow wild in Europe.

Iris susiana, the mourning iris, as it is sometimes called, has flowers very large in size, dotted, and striped with purple on a gray ground. In northern climates it needs to be protected in winter. Being one of the very finest of the genus, it will well repay the amateur for his care and attention; and it is readily hybridized, many varieties having been produced which are only locally known and have never been classified by botanists. Another kind well worth attention is the *iris Persica*, the blossom of which is of a pearly white hue, exhaling a very delicate perfume. This latter is well adapted for indoor growth.

Our engraving shows an unusually fine specimen of *i. susiana*, grown in the gardens of the Archbishop of Canterbury, England; but the blossom is three times as large as we have represented it. The best way to grow these beautiful flowers is in a large isolated bed, oval or circular in outline. The soil should be rich and open in texture, and well drained, for the sake of a few of the more delicate species; most of the kinds grow freely enough in stiff, coldish soil. The plants vary in size from *i. pallida* and *i. ochroleuca*, 3 or 4 feet high, down to some not 6 inches high, as *i. cristata*. They vary strikingly in color and markings too, so that an attraction of no mean order is a well planted and well arranged mass of irises alone. A few of the finer lilies, however, may be placed among them with good effect; and round the margins, in early spring, bulbous flowers may be dotted.

Rokitansky's Farewell Address.

On the 16th of July the distinguished anatomist and pathologist Rokitansky delivered, in the University of Vienna, his valedictory address before retiring from the professorship. It is a vigorous and thoughtful production, rich with the wisdom of wide experience. He entitles it his "Legacy to his Scholars." Various questions of the day are touched upon. One of his warnings is against admission of woman to equality with man; another, against an excess of competition in life; and a more urgent one, against modern individualism, which shows itself in the ruthless pursuit of personal objects, and in the readiness with which the ethics of the day excuse all manner of wrong-doing, out of a misplaced sympathy, or a belief that nothing is in itself bad.—*Medical and Surgical Reporter.*

CUPRESSUS NUTKAENSIS.

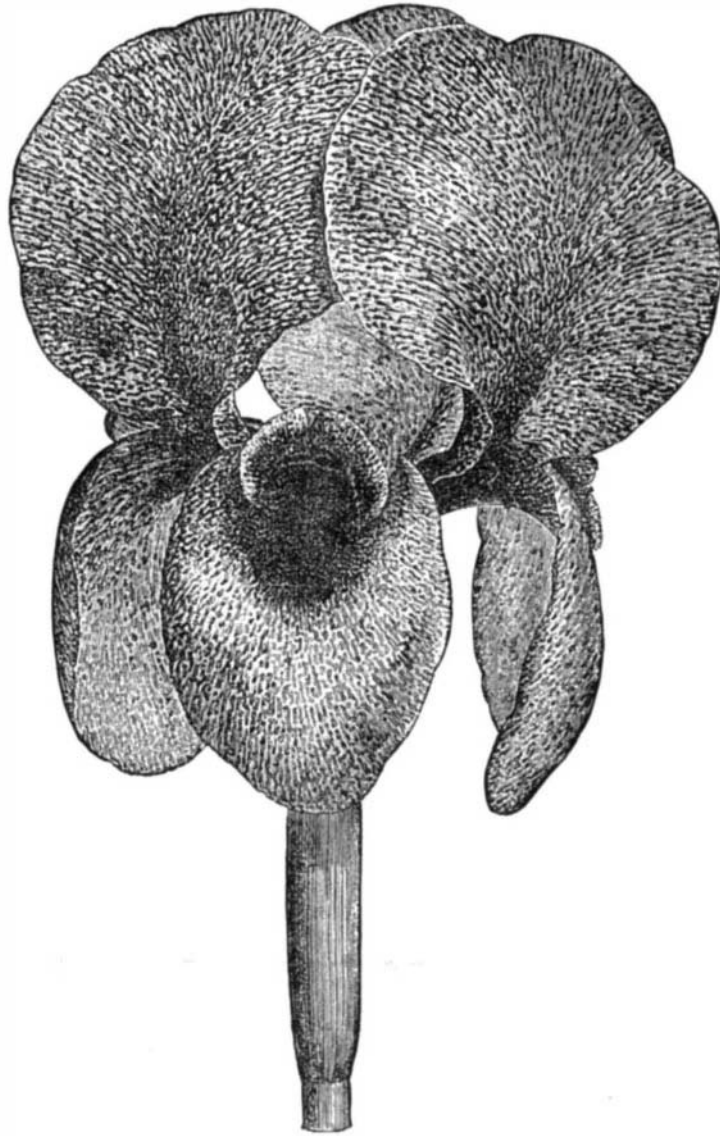
The northwestern shores of this continent, especially in



CONES AND LEAVES OF CUPRESSUS NUTKAENSIS.

the vicinity of Nootka Sound, Observatory Inlet, and the Island of Sitka, are the exclusive habitat of this remarkable species of cypress. When the late Dr. Fischer first saw it, he noted it down as a *thujopsis*, so much does it resemble that genus in habit and foliage. Later authors, however, prominent among whom is Mr. Gordon, have determined that the tree is most properly classed among the *cupressineæ*,

in the sub-order *chamæcyparis*, which is distinguished from *cupressus* proper by having only two seeds under each scale of the cone, whereas the true *cupressus* has several. In St. Petersburg the young plants have been raised in the open air, a sufficient indication of their hardiness. Under favorable conditions, the tree attains in its native habitats a height of 80 to 100 feet, with a bole of over 4 feet in diameter, perfectly straight, and covered with a smooth, soft, dark colored bark. The branches spread very much, and are sub-divided into a vast number of smaller pendent ramifications, which in old trees are thickly covered with a highly aromatic resinous exudation. The leaves, in shape, arrangement, and



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color, bear a remarkable resemblance to those of *thujopsis*, being a little brighter, perhaps, and with somewhat less of bluish reflection. The cones (of which we give an illustration) are solitary, almost sessile, or borne on very short stalks, and are covered with a glaucous pubescence; they are about the size of large peas. If a twig or branch of this tree is broken or bruised, it exhales a very powerful balsamic odor, and the wood, which produces white and soft timber, also yields in great abundance a very aromatic gum, which, in its appearance and scent, has a strong resemblance to Canada balsam. The tree is, on account of this property, known on the continent as the *sapin aromatique*.

CALADIUM CULTURE.

The caladium is undoubtedly one of the most ornamental and attractive of our fine foliaged stove plants, and few con-



CALADIUM BELLEYMEI AS A VASE PLANT.

vey a better idea of the luxuriance and splendor of tropical

undergrowth to those who have never been in tropical regions. This plant is not difficult to grow to perfection if it is treated liberally, and care taken to prevent the plants getting a check at any time, which is almost certain to arrest the development of the leaves before they have attained their full size; and no satisfactory growth is made after that. The roots should be shaken out carefully about the beginning of March, and the largest selected and potted, two, three, four, or more in a pot, according to the size of the bulbs and the variety. Large single roots of *c. esculentum* will sometimes require a 12 or 14 inch pot at the first; while the little argyrites, when grown for neat specimens, will only want a 3 or 4 inch pot for a number of its little bulbs at the first shift. The pots should be carefully crocked, but not too deeply, and a soil consisting of two thirds light turfy loam, one of well rotted leaf mold and cow dung, and a considerable addition of silver or common clean river sand, according as the loam is light or heavy, will suit them well. The bottom layer of soil may be made moderately firm with the fingers; but, on the whole, they should be rather loosely potted, seeing that long fleshy roots, that give massive leaves and not flowers, are what should be encouraged. After potting, they should be plunged in a bottom heat of about 75°, to begin with, in a stove or warm pit, and very slightly watered at first—or, indeed, not at all for a time, if the bulbs have been dried off during the winter, in which case they are exceedingly apt to rot off as soon as committed to the moist soil again. The roots will grow faster than the leaves at first; but when the first leaves do appear, the plants may be copiously watered, for, though the caladium is not an aquatic, it delights in abundance of moisture. As regards top heat, a general and moist stove temperature will suit them well, according to the season of the year, and they must be kept in a good light, not far from the glass, and subjected to a free circulation of warm air, and shaded carefully on sunny days with thin canvas.

In potting, see that the roots are not disturbed in the least; only remove the crocks. Pot carefully, leaving plenty of room for watering, and restore the plants to their former quarters, until they have got established, when they may be moved into the plant stove or house where they are to be displayed during the summer. Here they must not be neglected, or be allowed to become dry or shaded; they must have room, light, and air, and frequent waterings with weak liquid manure. With this treatment they will grow apace. Any flowers they throw up must be pinched out at an early stage, faded leaves cut off, and everything done to keep up and prolong a vigorous growth until the plants show a natural disposition to go to rest in autumn.

THE FLAMINGO PLANT.

At a recent exhibition of the Royal Botanic Society, a vigorous specimen of the flamingo plant, *anthurium scherzerianum*, bearing four remarkable large spathes, was exhibited. Our illustration, sketched at the time when it was exhibited, will give our readers some idea of the appearance of this large-spathed variety, which, for healthy luxuriance, we have never seen exceeded. The broad flat spathes were fully 5 inches in length and 4½ inches in breadth, and attracted much attention. In color these spathes were not so brilliant as those



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of some of the other varieties exhibited on that occasion; but perhaps spathes produced under more favorable circumstances, as regards weather, may be brighter. Like all other cultivated plants raised from seed, this *anthurium* is very variable in color: and this variety is now augmented by the introduction of a whitish-spathed kind.