

SNOWY-LIPPED LADY'S SLIPPER.

The annexed illustration represents a pretty little plant which was exhibited in May last at the South Kensington (England) Flower Show. This graceful little species of the



hardy lady slipper attains 10 inches or 12 inches in height, and generally bears a couple of flowers at the top of its leafy stems. In general habit, size, and form of its flowers, it closely resembles *c. calceolus*, but is readily distinguished from all other hardy cypripediums by its egg-shaped lip being of a pure white color. It is undoubtedly a desirable plant. Lindley describes a similar plant under the name of *c. cordigerum* as being found scattered through Europe, Dahuria, and, according to Thunberg, also in Japan, adding that its characters are those of our native *c. calceolus*, except that the lip is pure white. For a long time neither cultivators nor botanists recognized the vagaries in size, form, and color, which are now apparent in tropical and epiphytal orchids; and the immense variety observable in the hardy, exotic, terrestrial species is just beginning to be apparent. That the hardy lady slippers, however, do vary quite as much as their tropical congeners was shown in a luxuriant batch of the rosy-lipped *c. acaule* (*c. humile*) recently exhibited, among which we noted three forms so distinct in size and color of the flower and in breadth of the leaf that only a few years ago they would undoubtedly have been described as new species.

Longest Tunnel in America.

Few people know how great an engineering enterprise is going on in Baltimore county. For one thing alone, a tunnel six and four fifths miles long—36,510 feet—is being built underground, for over four fifths of the distance through hard gneiss and granite. It will be the longest tunnel in the country, and there will be only two larger in the world—the Mont Cenis, which is eight miles in length, and the St. Gothard, now in progress of construction, and which is to be nine and one quarter miles. The fact that the water supply tunnel lies near enough to the surface to allow of numerous shafts greatly facilitates its construction. The tunnel is a circle 12 feet in diameter, and extends from the Gunpowder river, about eight miles from the city, to Lake Montebello—the distributing reservoir—near the Hartford turnpike, about one mile and a half from the city, the direction being 26° west of south. This tunnel will conduct the water from the Gunpowder river to

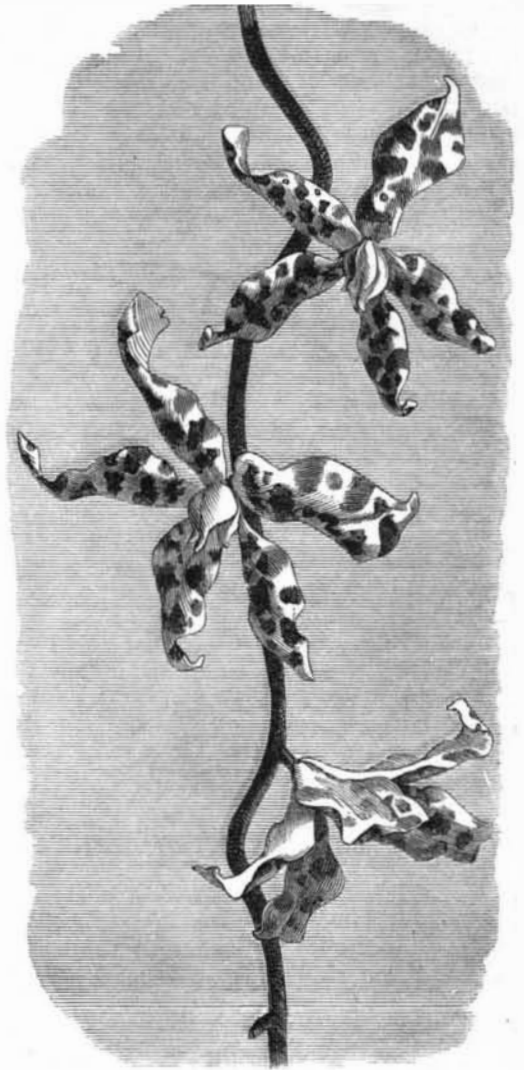
Lake Montebello. Thence a conduit, 4,120 feet long, known as the Clifton Tunnel, from the fact that it passes under a portion of the Clifton Park, conducts the water to a point just south of the Hartford road, where it enters six mains, each 4 feet in diameter, which convey the water to the city, a distance of 1,900 feet. The country along the line of the works is hilly, and the tunnel varies in depth below the surface from 67 to 353 feet. There are 15 shafts in the main tunnel, the deepest extending 294 feet below the surface. The water rains down from the crevices of the rocks, and pours along the bottom of the drift. Gangs of men, each with his miner's lamp attached to his hat, are hard at work picking and delving in the flinty bowels of the earth; and the monotonous clang of the hammer upon the drill is constantly heard, except when everything is in readiness for firing a mine, when all retire to a safe distance, and thunderous reports roll through the rocky corridors. The work of the tunneling is all done by hand, it being cheaper than the machine work in a drift of such narrow diameter.—*Baltimore Gazette.*

LOW'S NECKLACE VANDA.—(Vanda Lowi).

This species is one of the most distinct of all the vandas, and, although as yet not common, it has several times bloomed and been exhibited in England. Although a strong-growing plant, it flowers in a comparatively small state. The plant attains a height of from 2 feet to 10 feet, and has distichous, leathery leaves, 2 feet or more in length. We have other vandas from Malaysia of similar habit, notably *v. Batemani*, from the Philippines, which grows in co-partnership with the glossy leaved *cypripedium laevigatum*. There are one or two characteristics about Low's vanda, however, possessed by no other species. The flowers are arranged on a slender, zigzag raceme, which not unfrequently attains a length of from 6 feet to 8 feet, and when furnished with buds somewhat resembles an elegant necklace, finally changing to a wreath of gold and purple-blotched blossoms, as shown in the annexed engraving, with the trifling exception that the slender flower stem is densely hairy or hispid and not smooth as therein represented. Perhaps the most singular point in the history of this curious plant, however, is the production of flowers of two distinct kinds on one spike.

At the extreme base of the flower stem, say 1 foot or more from the leaf axil whence it emerges, two flowers are produced at about 3 inches or more apart. These flowers are golden yellow, the blotches being very small and scarcely visible, and having moreover a delicate perfume. Then comes a space of 12 inches or 15 inches, and then the ordinary flowers, the petals of which are broader than the basal yellow flowers, and are heavily and richly blotched with crimson purple. This production of two distinct sorts of hermaphrodite flowers on the same spike is, however, only

one of numerous instances of the kind now known to botanists. The spikes, which are often longer than the plant which produces them, occasionally trail along the ground, thus forming a ladder to nectar-hunting beetles and other



VANDA LOWI.

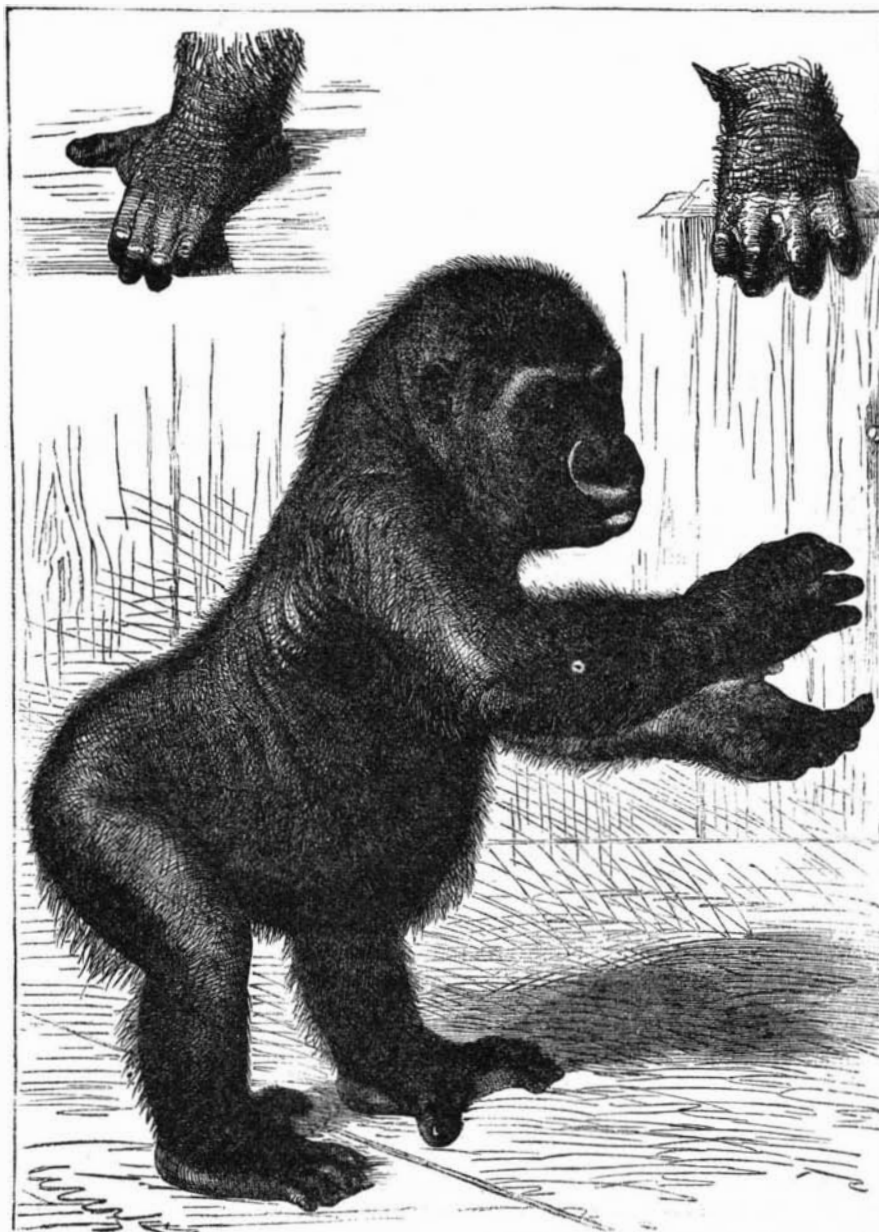
insects, just as do the long-tailed petals of *cypripedium caudatum*, or the singularly bearded inflorescence of *attacia cristata*. The plant, which is one not at all difficult to cultivate, is propagated by means of offsets, which sometimes make their appearance on strong specimens.

THE GORILLA.

I have had several interviews with Pongo, the gorilla, at the Westminster Aquarium, and at every visit I am more impressed with the interest of this remarkable animal. It is quite evident he is not very arboreal in his habits. He sits nearly always on the floor with his legs tucked under him, exactly as a tailor. His face cannot be called ugly certainly, but at the same time it cannot be called intelligent. The nose is much depressed into the face; the lips are even with the nose, and pink inside. He cannot smile, but he grins like a dog. He will snatch and pull away anything put near him. He took a pocket handkerchief from a lady's pocket, put it around his neck, and afterwards wiped his nose with it. This, I am inclined to think, was not imitation, but an accident. He is apparently not right-handed, but uses both hands equally.

If there is any one distinctive point between man and the gorilla, it is in the conformation of the hands. The thumb is exceedingly short, and cannot be used with anything like the facility as in the human subject.

No one seems to have noticed in this specimen the great difference between the human hand and that of the gorilla. In the human hand the three bones forming the finger spring direct from the palm of the hand. In the gorilla, the spaces from the knuckles to the first joint of the finger are united by a membrane, and become practically a continuation of the palm of the hand. The gorilla uses his hand as a foot much more than as a hand. When he progresses the fingers are bent inward on to the first joint of the fingers, thus forming a sort of pad on which the animal walks. When walking the fore arms and hand form, as it were, supports for the rest of the body; in fact, the gorilla's gait may be likened to a man going on crutches. The hind legs are comparatively small



THE GORILLA—MR. PONGO.