A TROPICAL GARDEN IN NEW JERSEY.

One of the most beautiful spots in this part of the country is at Clifton, N. J., where, through the ingenuity of Mr. S. C. Nash, a little corner of the tropics has been, as it were, mysteriously transported and dropped down in this occasionally frigid region. Mr. Nash has particularly devoted his attentions to the Victoria regia, which is sometimes seen in this country under glass, but which he has boldly brought out into his garden pool, where it flourishes and blossoms like an ordinary garden plant. The domestication of the Victoria is not, however, so simple a matter as it seems: for, even though the domed glass roof is dispensed with, one of the principal features of the greenhouse is surreptitiously introduced, although it is not visible to the eyes of visitors. The water of the pool in which the plants grow is too cool, even during our hot summers, for the Victoria to flourish in, and Mr. Nash has skillfully introduced under the surface of the water coils of pipes, by means of which the water may be warmed to any desired temperature.

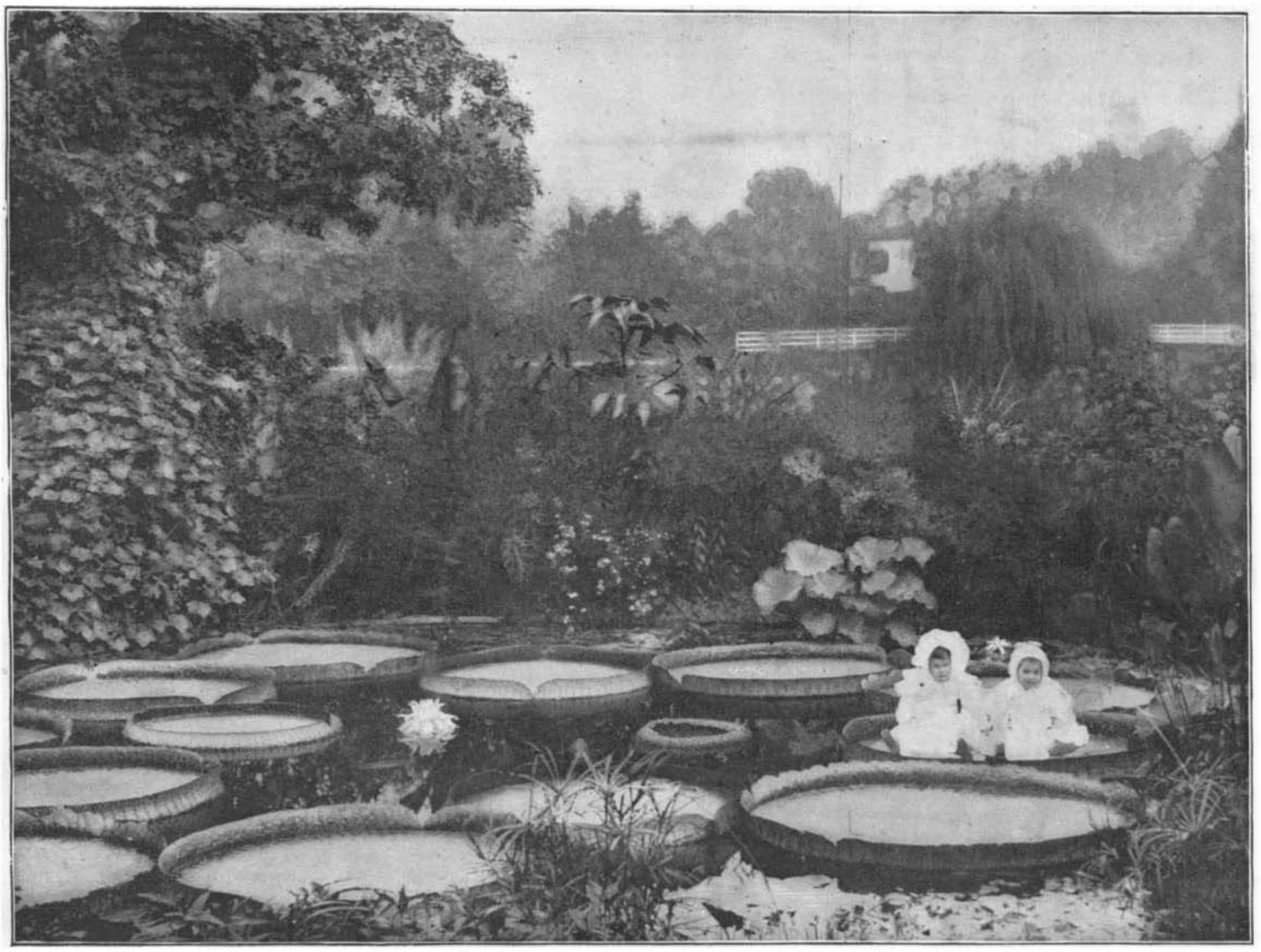
The pool in which the Victorias grow is two feet deep and has sloping sides formed with a concrete bottom eight inches thick. There are four pits, each eight feet square, filled with soil for the plants, which grow with such luxuriance that the leaves cover the whole pool, which is about 100 feet by 50 feet. A single plant will sometimes have twenty leaves and several blossoms at one time. The plants are raised from seeds which are started in the greenhouses during the early part of March. The plants are generally moved out into the pool about the middle of May, provided the weather has become sufficiently mild at that time. They are generally protected by a temporary sash until about the beginning of July, when the frame is removed.

The leaves of the Victoria are from five to seven feet in diameter, and the edge of the leaf turns up a distance of several inches, and they have such a spread of surface that they will sustain the weight of the heaviest man. In the photograph which we reproduce two charming children are quietly and complacently seated. Mr. Nash's garden contains many other beautiful specimens of other varieties of plants.

We show in another view some specimens of the Papyrus antiquoram or paper plant, which grows in all its beautiful luxuriance in a neighboring pool. It grows wild on the marshy banks of rivers in Abyssinia, Syria, and Sicily, but is said to have disappeared entirely from Egypt, where, in ancient times, it grew abundantly along the Nile and afforded a material used to write upon, as we write upon paper. The plant has large and abundant root stocks, which spread in the mud and throw up numerous stems from five to ten feet high, the lower portion being submerged. As cultivated, it has considerable merit as a decorative plant, its tall, naked stems bearing delicate green umbels of slender branching peduncles. Though aquatic, it may be cultivated in pots, if freely watered.

One of the most beautiful plants grown by Mr. Nash is the Egyptian lotus, a photograph of which we expect to publish in a forthcoming number of the SUPPLEMENT. It is a giant-leaved flowering plant, which grows out of the water and raises its leaves and blossoms above the quiet surface of the pool. As some evidence of the attention that has been attracted to this garden, it may be mentioned that illustrated descriptions of the garden have been published in several of the leading horticultural papers, in English where it has attracted great attention.

THE PAPER PLANT (PAPYRUS ANTIQUORAM).



THE VICTORIA REGIA RAISED AT CLIFTON N. J.

Test of a Battleship Turret Plate.

A plate representing 415 tons of 8 inch turret and barbette armor of the battleship Iowa and the armored cruiser Brooklyn was tested at the Indian Head Proving Grounds January 8, with results unsatisfactory to the manufacturers, the Carnegie Steel Company. Two big ports were cut in the plate to make it represent as nearly as possible a port plate of the 8 inch turrets of these vessels. Only one shot was necessary to determine that the plate was not up to the standard. A 6 inch armor piercing projectile of the Wheeler type, weighing 100 pounds, was fired at the big steel target with a velocity of 1,700 feet a second. The contract for the group which this plate represented required that the shell should do no greater damage than merely to crack it, but after the shot was fired an examination disclosed that the target had been broken into three pieces. There was nothing further to be done, and Captain Sampson, Chief of the Naval Bureau of Ordnance, and the other officers who witnessed the test returned to Washington.

The result of the test will cause the temporary rejection of this group of armor, but a second test will be made, which is likely to prove more successful for the Carnegie Company. The plate which fared so badly was of inferior quality and it is said that it did not fairly represent the other plates in the group. It was selected for the test because of its inferiority, in accordance with the policy of the Ordnance Bureau to choose for this purpose the specimen which is believed to be the weakest in a group, the idea being that, if the poorest plate can stand the severe test prescribed by the bureau, the others must necessarily be able to withstand a greater striking force.—N. Y. Tribune.