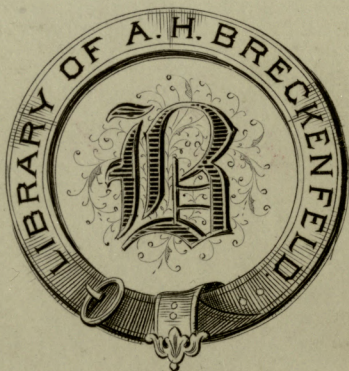


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V. G. Breckenfeld

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A. G. Creekenfeld

A

POPULAR HISTORY
OF THE
BRITISH FERNS

AND THE ALLIED PLANTS,

COMPRISING THE

CLUB-MOSSES, PEPPERWORTS, AND HORSETAILS.

BY

THOMAS MOORE, F.L.S., &c.,

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AND AUTHOR OF 'A HANDBOOK OF BRITISH FERNS,' ETC., ETC.

LONDON :

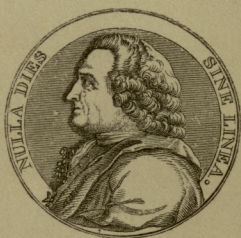
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1851.

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PRINTED BY REEVE AND NICHOLS,
HEATHCOCK COURT, STRAND.

TO

N. B. WARD, ESQ., F. L. S., &c.,

WHOSE INVENTION OF

CLOSE GLAZED CASES

HAS EXTENDED THE CULTIVATION OF FERNS TO THE PARLOUR,

THE WINDOW-SILL, AND THE CITY COURT-YARD,

AS WELL AS ENRICHED OUR GARDENS WITH THE FRUITS AND FLOWERS

OF OTHER LANDS,

This Little Volume

IS, WITH MUCH RESPECT AND ESTEEM, DEDICATED,

BY HIS OBLIGED FRIEND,

THE AUTHOR.

P R E F A C E.

It has been presumed that we have been labouring for beginners in the study of Ferns, and especially for the young. Hence our aim has been to familiarize the subject as far as possible, without sacrificing that integrity of detail which may render these pages acceptable even to those who have made some progress in the study; and with this end in view, we have avoided all unnecessary technicalities, and confined ourselves rather to plain, and, as we hope, easily understood descriptions of the plants. Those dubious and debateable matters, which, perhaps, have the most interest to the advanced student, have been for the

most part entirely avoided, as being calculated to perplex rather than instruct those who are but acquiring the rudiments of the subject.

Abstruse questions of identity or of specific distinctions have also been regarded as foreign to the purposes of this 'History.' On these points we have been content to follow the generally received opinions of Pteridologists. In one or two instances, in which perhaps this course has been departed from, the reason has been made sufficiently obvious.

These explanations may serve to acquaint more advanced students why so little of novelty has been prominently introduced, and why several recently described plants have been rather treated as varieties than as species. The consideration of the specific distinctness of these plants opens up questions involving much doubt and difficulty, and leading different inquirers to widely different conclu-

sions. Of the difficulties of such questions the uninitiated can have but a faint idea, neither could they be expected to see clearly through them in any form in which they could possibly be presented to them. It has, therefore, been thought best to simplify the matter by regarding such dubious species as varieties, ranging them with those admitted species in whose company, it appeared to us, they would be most easily recognized. In doing this, however, we record no opinions as to the questions really involved.

One novel species—a less dubious addition to our British Ferns—has been announced while these pages have been going through the press. This will be found described in an Appendix.

One word more.—If it so happens that any of those who may be led by the perusal of these pages to study the Ferns of Britain, should, in the course of their inquiries, meet with difficulties or perplexities which we may be able to

remove, it will afford us much gratification to do so. And we should be glad to trouble any reader for information as to the occurrence of any of the species in the counties to which they are not assigned under the head of "Local Distribution."

Botanic Garden, Chelsea, London,

November, 1851.

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POPULAR HISTORY OF BRITISH FERNS.

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## INTRODUCTION.

THERE are several causes which conduce to render the native Ferns of Great Britain an attractive object of study. Of these we will mention the following:—

1. They are for the most part objects of exquisite elegance, and this is apparent, whether they are superficially examined as to their external appearance, or whether they are investigated anatomically, with the view to discover and analyse their minute structure.

2. They are not very numerous, nor very inaccessible, and consequently their study opens a field which even those who have not much leisure may hope to compass, and for which the greater part, at least, of the materials may be obtained without much difficulty.

3. They are plants for the most part very easily cultivated, and of all others perhaps the best adapted to parlour or window culture ; and hence, besides the interest they may excite in the collection and preservation of them in the herbarium, and in the study of them in the dried state, there is to be added the pleasure to be derived from their cultivation, and the opportunities thus afforded of studying and admiring them in the living state.

Those who desire a thorough knowledge of the species of Ferns, should certainly, if possible, adopt the method of study just indicated, as it reveals many curious and interesting features which are not to be learned from the investigations—though patiently and assiduously prosecuted—which are aided only by dried portions of the plants. All the essential points necessary for the recognition of the species, may, nevertheless, be availably present in well-selected herbarium specimens, so that those who have not convenience for cultivating them, may yet store up in their cabinets ample materials for their amusement and instruction in detached and leisure hours.

There is something peculiarly fascinating in the graceful outline and disposition of parts, which is so common among the Ferns as to have become associated in idea with this

portion of the vegetable creation. Gaudy colouring is indeed absent, and they wear while in life and health nothing beyond a livery of sober green, which can scarcely be said to gain ornament from the brownish scales, with which in some of our native species it is associated on the living plant. In some exotic forms indeed, as for example in the species of *Gymnogramma*, the lower surface is covered more or less with a silvery or golden powder, which adds considerably to their beauty; and in the wide range of the "Ferns of all nations" there is considerable variety, even of the tints of green, to be observed. The more sober-tinted natives of our northern latitude can, however, boast but of comparatively little such variety of hue. It is not, therefore, in the colouring that their attractions rest; nor is it in their endurance, for a large proportion of the native species lose all their beauty as soon as the frost reaches them, and for nearly one-half of the year are dormant unless artificially sheltered. We therefore conclude, that it is the elegant forms and graceful habits of the majority of the Ferns, native and exotic, which render them so generally pleasing, even to those who are slow to perceive beauty apart from rich and gaudy colouring.

The number of the native species of Ferns may be taken



at from forty to fifty, according as some of the more doubtful forms are ranked as species or varieties. In a botanical point of view the lowest estimate is probably the most correct, as the experience we have of some of the so-called species leads to the notion that they are insensibly united by intermediate forms. As, however, affecting their cultivation, or when the Ferns are taken up as a "fancy," the higher number is too low; for we hold that in all such cases, if one plant is palpably different from another, it forms a legitimate object for culture or for study as a distinct object, though the differences may be of such a character as would lead the rigid botanist to brand it as not "specifically distinct."

There is a good deal of pedantry abroad on this question of the limits of the species of plants, with which, happily, in this popular sketch of the British Ferns, we shall have no occasion to intermeddle.

The literature of the British Ferns is tolerably extensive, viewed in connection with the comparative numerical insignificance of the plants themselves,—a mere fraction of the three thousand species of Ferns which are known to botanists, and a mere fraction, also, of our indigenous vegetation.

Passing by the ancient writers, whose works are both

for the most part inaccessible, and not of much value to the casual student, we shall enumerate the several English publications of the present day, which are exclusively occupied in the description of the British Ferns and their allies; as we hope some at least of our readers may be so far led on by the sketch we shall endeavour to offer in the following pages, as to seek the further assistance to be derived from the more varied sources indicated below. We shall arrange them in the order of their original publication, and mention the most recent editions:—

1. *An Analysis of the British Ferns and their allies.* By G. W. Francis, F.L.S. Fourth Edition (same as the Third, excepting the date on the title). 8vo, pp. 88, with 9 plates, containing reduced figures of the species described.
2. *A History of British Ferns, and allied plants.* By Edward Newman, F.L.S., &c. Enlarged Edition of a former work. 8vo, pp. 224, with beautiful woodcut illustrations.
3. *Florigraphia Britannica*, Vol. IV.: *The Ferns of Britain and their allies.* By Richard Deakin, M.D. 8vo, pp. 136, with 31 plates and numerous woodcuts.
4. *A Handbook of British Ferns.* By Thomas Moore,

F.L.S., &c. 16mo, pp. 156, with plain woodcuts of all the species and the principal varieties.

The most important enumerations of the British Ferns elsewhere to be met with, are those in the recent edition (6th) of Sir W. J. Hooker's 'British Flora,' by Dr. Walker Arnott, and in Mr. Babington's 'Manual of British Botany' (3rd edit.), in both of which they are treated with deference to modern views. Ample descriptions of them so far as then known, are given in Sir J. E. Smith's 'English Flora,' accompanied by the synonyms of the older writers.

Much has been achieved towards a thorough knowledge of the English species, by the scrutiny to which the Ferns at large have of late years been subjected, both in this country and in Germany; and we ought not to close this paragraph without mentioning, of English botanists who have contributed to this advance, the names of Brown, Hooker, Wallich, Greville, J. Smith, and Heward, especially, as having most successfully dealt with a difficult subject.



## THE STRUCTURE OF FERNS.

BUT our young readers will be ready to ask, What is a Fern? This we will now endeavour to explain by means of a familiar comparison.

It is presumed that every reader of this little book, even the youngest, can recognize a flower, not indeed by the aid of the somewhat technical intricacies to which the man of science would resort, but by means of that intuitive perception, which has grown up with the growing faculties and acquired strength from the little experiences of childhood and youth. We will suppose, then, that all our readers are familiar with natural productions such as the buttercup, the poppy, the brier-rose, the daisy, the dandelion, and others such as these, which are so profusely dispersed over the meadows and corn-fields, and along the hedge-rows, and by the way-sides: even the young ears of corn and the spikes of meadow grasses must be well-remembered objects. Now, these all afford examples of flowers, or of masses of flowers. But then the plants from which the daisy heads and

dandelions were plucked to be made into floral chains, and those which yielded the buttercups, the roses, and various others for the rural bouquet, produced, besides their flowers—those brilliantly coloured parts which the tiny fingers chiefly desired to gather—other parts, mostly green, and in which the same intuitive perception has learned to recognize the leaves. These “organs,” as they are called—the leaves and the flowers—are the two most conspicuous parts of the majority of plants.

Popularly speaking, a Fern may be said to be a plant which never bears flowers, but leaves only; and these leaves are greatly varied, and very elegant in form. But some one will say, How can I tell a Fern, which never bears flowers, from some other plant which does bear flowers, but from which they are temporarily absent? A little patience, and a little attentive study, will overcome this seeming, and to the beginner real, difficulty. You must search for what seems to be a full-grown plant. Examine the under surface of its leaves, and you will see brown dusty-looking patches, round or elongated or in lines, scattered here and there, and generally arranged with much regularity. These patches are vast accumulations of the minute seeds—so minute as to be fabulously invisible—from which young fern-plants would be produced.

Now, as the leaves of those plants which do bear flowers do not bear these dusty patches, it is on their presence that the novice must depend for the assurance that the plant he has under examination is really a Fern. It must be confessed, indeed, that this is a very imperfect definition, and one which would fail to satisfy the more advanced student; but in truth, there is no other available guide-mark at the starting point, nor until the eye has become familiarized with the peculiar appearances by aid of which Ferns may be recognized at first sight. This first step—the ready recognition of a Fern from other plants—will be greatly assisted by Mr. Fitch's characteristic figures which accompany and ornament these pages. More detailed particulars of the peculiarities of Ferns we must now proceed to offer.

Ferns, as we have already stated, are flowerless plants. They are furnished with roots, by which they obtain nourishment from the soil; with stems, by which their conspicuous parts are borne up and supported; and with leaves, to which their elegance is due, these leaves bearing on some part of their surface, but usually on the lower face, the seeds by which the plants may be propagated. These are their external parts, and are called organs.

The proper roots of Ferns are entirely fibrous, and they



proceed from the under side of the stem, when the latter assumes the prostrate or creeping mode of growth; but when it grows erect, they are produced towards its lower end on all sides indifferently, from among the bases of the decayed leaves or fronds. Fibrous roots are so called from their consisting of little thread-like parts, which, as they extend by growth at their points, insinuate themselves between the particles of earth to which they have access, and this in process of time becomes filled with their ramifications. They often form entangled masses, but are not always sufficiently numerous for this. The fibres of Ferns are mostly of a somewhat rigid or wiry texture; and in the younger portions are often more or less covered with fine soft hairs, which become lost with age. It is by means of these organs chiefly, that Ferns, and all the more highly developed plants, are nourished.

The stem of a Fern, which is sometimes called a rhizome, sometimes a caudex—names given to particular modifications of the stems of plants—forms either an upright stock, which in our native species seldom elevates itself above the surface of the ground, but in certain exotic ferns reaches from thirty to fifty feet or more in height, and gives a tree-like character to the species; or it extends horizontally either on

or beneath the surface of the soil, and forms what is called a creeping stem. These creeping stems are generally clothed with hairs or scales, and sometimes to such an extent as to become quite shaggy; they vary greatly in size, some being as thick as one's wrist, and others, as in our native *Hymenophyllums*, as fine as threads.

The common Polypody has the thickest stem of any of the creeping British species: in this it is about as thick as one's thumb; but that of the common Bracken, or *Pteris*, creeps the most extensively. The *Osmunda*, or Flowering Fern, as it is called, is, of the native upright-growing species, that which most readily gains height, and very old plants of this may sometimes be found with bare stems of a foot or more in length. The common Male Fern, the *Lastrea Oreopteris*, and the *Polystichum angulare*, have also a tendency, though in a less degree, to this mode of growth, but it never becomes apparent except in the case of very aged plants.

The leaves of Ferns are generally called fronds, and as we think this latter term the most appropriate, we shall adopt it, with this general explanation, that it means the leaf-like organs which are borne on the proper stem. The leaf-like character they bear, has led some botanists to reject the term *frond* altogether, and to consider them as true

leaves; but since they produce, from some part of their surface, what in their case stands in the place of flowers, there is no more reason why they should be called leaves, than the leaf-like stems of Cactuses, or those of some curious hot-house plants called *Xylophyllas*, each of which is an example of a plant bearing its flower on what appear to be leaves, but which are in reality stems. The frond or leafy part of a Fern is, however, not to be classed among stems; and hence, since it is of intermediate character between a leaf and a stem, a distinctive name seems to be properly applied to it. The name in common use among botanists is *frond*, which we shall therefore adopt, and recommend our young friends to employ.

As there are no flowers produced by the Ferns (we use the term *flower* in its popular sense, without entering into points of speculative botany), it is in the fronds that we must seek for that ornamental aspect which renders them such general favourites. The fronds alone, however, afford almost endless variety:—some are very large, others very small; some quite simple and not at all divided, others divided beyond computation into little portions or segments, and it is these much-divided fronds which, generally speaking, are the most elegant.



Even in the few species which are natives of Britain, this variety of size and form is very obvious, some kinds not being more than two or three inches, others five to six feet or more in height,—some quite simple, and others cut into innumerable small segments. There is much variety of texture too: some being thin and delicate, almost transparent, others thick and leathery, and some perfectly rigid; some are pale green, some are deep green, some are blue-green, some dark brownish, scarcely green at all; some are smooth and shining, others opaque, and some few are covered with hair-like scales.

The duration of the fronds of many species is comparatively short: they come up in spring, and in some cases the earliest of them do not last till autumn, in others they continue until touched by frost, from which the more robust of them shrink, even as the tender sorts do from drought as well as frost. Others are much more durable, and the plants, if in a moderately sheltered situation, become evergreen. These latter should be most extensively adopted for culture where ornamental effect is an object. We shall point out these peculiarities as we describe the different species.

The fronds of Ferns consist of two parts—the leafy portion;

and the stalk, which latter is often called the *stipes*. The continuation of the stalk, in the form of a rib extending through the leafy portion, and becoming branched when the frond is divided, is called the *rachis*; if the frond is compound, that is, divided, so that there is another set of ribs besides the principal one, the latter is called the primary rachis, and the former the secondary rachis. Few of our native species are so highly compound as to possess more than a secondary rachis. In practice, when the outline or division of the frond is mentioned, it is generally the leafy portion only that is referred to, exclusive of the stipes.

The stipes is generally furnished more or less with membranous scales, which are sometimes few and confined to the base, and at other times continued along the rachis. Sometimes these scales, which are generally brown, are large and so numerous that the parts on which they are situated acquire a shaggy appearance. The form of the scales, as well as their number and position and even colour, is found to be very constant in the different species or varieties, and hence they sometimes afford good marks of recognition. Whenever they are produced along the rachis, as well as on the stipes, they are invariably largest at the base, and become gradually smaller upwards.

In some species the leafy portion of the frond is undivided, that is to say, the margins are not scalloped or cut away at all: an example of this occurs in the common Hart's-tongue. The margin is, however, much more commonly more or less divided. In the simplest mode of division which occurs among the British species, the margin of the frond is deeply divided or scalloped out at short intervals, the divisions extending inwards nearly to the rachis, but not reaching it: this slightly divided form is called *pinnatifid*.

The fronds are sometimes divided quite down to the rachis, which is, as it were, quite bared of the contiguous leafy expansion, and when this occurs the frond is said to be pinnate; in this case, each of the distinct leaf-like divisions is called a *pinna*. When these pinnæ are divided again upon precisely the same plan the frond becomes *bipinnate*, or twice pinnate, but if the pinnæ are only deeply lobed *they* are said to be pinnatifid.

When the fronds are thrice pinnate, and in all other more intricate forms, they are called decomposed, but this seldom occurs in any of the native kinds; the nearest approach to it is in very vigorous plants of the common Bracken, and in some of the *Lastreas*, when very largely developed.



The young fronds of the ferns before being developed are arranged in a very curious manner, the rachis being rolled inwards from the point to the base, and in the compound sorts the divisions are each again rolled up in a similar way. This arrangement is what is called circinate. All the British species, with two exceptions, are folded up in this way, so that their development consists of an unrolling of the fronds. The exceptions mentioned, are the Moonwort and the Adder's-tongue, in both of which the fronds in the undeveloped state are folded straight.

The substance of the fronds is traversed by veins variously arranged; in some species forming straight parallel lines, in others joined together like net-work. The manner in which the veins are disposed is called the *venation*, and the nature of this venation affords useful data in the division of the ferns into family groups. It is from some determinate part of these veins that the clusters of fructification proceed, that part to which they are attached being called the *receptacle*. A correct appreciation of the condition and position of the receptacle with reference to the veins, is of considerable importance in the study of the genera and species—that is to say, the individual kinds and the family groups. In some, though few of the native

kinds, it is projected beyond the margin, and the little cases of seeds are collected around its free extremity. More commonly, however, the veins stop within the margins, and the seed-cases grow in round or elongated clusters, situate at their ends or along their sides, and protruded through the skin of the lower surface of the fronds.

No flowers are produced, but the plants bear, generally, great abundance of seed-like bodies, which are technically called *spores*, and are contained in little cases of very singular construction. Collectively, these cases and their contents are called the fructification. The seed-cases, as already remarked, are attached in the different species to certain determinate thickened portions of the veins, which points of attachment are called the *receptacles*. Each separate mass or cluster of the seed-cases is called a *sorus*, but as they are generally spoken of collectively, the plural term *sori* becomes much more frequently used.

The seed-cases—called also *spore-cases*, or *sporangia*, or *thecæ*—are mostly minute roundish-oval bodies, containing one cavity, and nearly surrounded by an elastic vertical band or ring, which is continued from the base so as to form a short stalk, by which they are attached. When they have reached maturity, the elasticity of the ring

bursts the case irregularly, and the seeds or spores, in the shape of fine dust, almost invisible, become dispersed. This is what occurs in the majority of the native species; in *Trichomanes* and the *Hymenophyllums*, however, the elastic band is horizontal or oblique; and in *Osmunda*, *Botrychium*, and *Ophioglossum*, the spore-cases are two-valved, and destitute of the elastic ring.

In a considerable proportion of the known species of Ferns, and in the majority of those which are natives of Great Britain, the sori are covered in the earlier stages of growth by what is commonly called the *indusium*, which is mostly a thin transparent membranous scale of the same general form as the sorus itself, at first completely covering or enclosing the young seed-cases. Eventually, however, by their growth, its margins are disrupted, and it is cast off, frequently even before the maturity of the seeds. Some species, however, never bear any indusium, and its presence or absence is consequently one of the technical points by which the large body of Ferns are divided into groups of manageable extent. In some Ferns the indusium, or cover, or at least what is considered analogous to it, is cup-shaped, containing the seed-cases; but this form is of very rare occurrence among the native species, and exists only in *Trichomanes* and the *Hymenophyllums*.



Taking now a retrospective glance, we have seen that the Ferns are, as regards external structure, flowerless plants, having erect or creeping stems, which bear the leaf-like fronds; and on some part of the surface of the latter, usually the lower side, but sometimes the margin, are borne the clusters of seeds, which, in the majority of the native species, are, when young, furnished with a membranous scale-like cover.

The subject of internal structure, or anatomy, is foreign to the purposes of this volume. We may, however, mention in general terms, that the Ferns belong to the lowest group of vegetation, which is especially remarkable for its loose and often succulent texture, owing to the absence, or nearly so, of those tissues which give firmness and elasticity to the higher orders of plants. The Ferns, however, are the highest members of this group, and hence we find them possessing, to some extent, both woody and vascular tissue,—matters which, together with cellular tissue, the soft loose material above mentioned, may be found explained in any elementary book on physiological botany.

## PROPAGATION, DEVELOPMENT, AND CULTURE.

NATURALLY Ferns are propagated by means of the spores, of which mention has been already made. These spores are somewhat analogous to seeds, being like them endowed with that mystery—the vital germ; and, when placed under fitting conditions, they become developed into young plants; but they differ from seeds in some important particulars.

All true seeds have a determinate structure; they have an embryo, with special organs, namely, the plumule, or germ of the ascending axis, the origin of the stem, and the radicle, or germ of the descending axis, the origin of the root. When a seed is planted, in whatever position it may chance to have been deposited in the soil, the young root or radicle strikes downwards, and the young stem or plumule grows upwards.

The Fern spores have none of these determinate parts, but are, as it were, homogeneous atoms; and when placed under circumstances which induce germination, that part which lies downwards produces the root, and that part

which lies upwards produces the rudimentary stem. The spores are very minute vesicles of various shapes, but mostly roundish, and are often beautifully ornamented with markings on the exterior. They consist merely of a small vesicle of cellular tissue, and as they grow this vesicle becomes divided into others, which again multiply and enlarge, until they form a minute green leaf-like patch, roundish but irregular in outline, unilateral, and often, if not always, two-lobed, forming a primordial scale or leaf; this by degrees thickens at a central point on the side, which henceforth becomes the axis of development, and from this point a small leaf or frond is produced on the upper surface where the tissue is acted on by light. This leaf is usually very different in aspect as well as size from the mature fronds, and is succeeded by other fronds, which acquire by degrees the characteristic features peculiar to their species.

In some annual Ferns the mature character is soon attained, but in others two or more years of growth is required before they reach maturity; they, however, soon begin to assume something of their peculiar appearance, so that by the time three or four of these young fronds are produced, sometimes even earlier, a practised eye can recognize the species.



It is from the under side of the thickened point or axis of development above mentioned, where it comes in contact with the moistened soil, that the roots are protruded. The stem, or caudex, whatever its character, originates in this primary axis of development.

In the first stages of development, then, the young seedling Ferns (that is, Ferns raised from the spores) assume the appearance of a Liverwort, forming a green, semi-transparent, crust-like patch on the surface of the soil—the unilateral primordial scale referred to above.

In these minute and almost invisible atoms, no less than in the more ponderous materials which surround us, we discover the impress of Almighty and Creative power. They teem with life! No commixture of elementary matter, no electric shock guided by human agency, can originate that. Truly the hand that made them is Divine!

The requisite conditions to induce the germination of the spores of Ferns, in addition to the supply of the degree of heat proper for the species which produced them, is simply contact with a continually damp surface. Diffused light is favourable to the young growth as soon as it begins to form, but is apparently not necessary as a means of exciting it. It matters little in what way the principal condition above-mentioned

is supplied. In hothouses, where the plants stand and shed their spores, the latter germinate freely on the undisturbed soil, or on any damp brickwork with which they come in contact, or on the upright sides of the pots in which the plants are growing, if these are so circumstanced as to remain continually damp. They grow very readily on the rough surface of a piece of sandstone-rock, just kept moistened by water constantly but slowly dripping upon it.

The most convenient way, however, to raise Ferns from the spores, where cultivation is the object, is to sow them on the surface of peat soil, in pots of convenient size, the surface of the soil being kept an inch or more below the level of the pot rim, so that a piece of flat glass may be laid over the top, to secure a close and constantly moist atmosphere, and prevent rapid evaporation from the soil.

The pots should be nearly half-filled with small pieces of broken potsherds or of broken bricks, and the soil itself should be used rather coarse than fine, the surface being left rough, that is, not pressed down close and even. The pots should be set in pans or feeders, in which water should be kept so long as the soil does not become saturated. By this means, the soil may be kept at the required degree of continual dampness; but if by any chance saturation seems

to be taking place, the supply should be withheld for a time. A shady situation, under the influence of a temperature proper for the individual kinds, should be selected for these nursery pots.

When all is in readiness, the spores should be thinly scattered over the rough surface of the soil, and the glass cover at once put on. It is necessary to be somewhat careful in the act of sowing, as the spores, from their lightness and minuteness, are liable to be dispersed in the atmosphere, instead of being lodged on the seed-bed prepared for them; from the same cause, they are apt to cling about the surface of the paper—even though it be glazed—in which they may have been enclosed. A bell-glass may be employed to cover the soil after sowing, but we have been content to point out the simplest means and materials by which the end in view may be attained.

A simple and convenient contrivance for sowing the spores, by which the progress of germination might be very readily watched, would consist in inverting a porous flower-pot in a shallow dish or pan of water, large enough to take also the rim of an enclosing bell-glass, which should cover some surface of the water. A small cup or vase, set on the top of the inverted pot, with two or three worsted siphons,



would keep its sides always damp ; the spores scattered over the sides of this moistened porous earthenware would find a proper nidus for their development, which might thus be watched with great facility. It is to be borne in mind, however, that the seedling plants are not so readily transplanted from an earthenware or stone surface, as they are when growing on the soil.

The general features of culture—which it will be sufficient here to notice—are shade, shelter, and abundance of moisture, neither of these being, however, essential to all the species, but when judiciously combined producing the conditions under which all the species admit of being very successfully grown.

In the garden, Ferns seem only appropriately introduced on what is called rockwork, which generally means a bank of earth irregularly terraced with misshapen fragments of stone, or by some other hard porous material, the vitrified masses formed in the burning of bricks being that most commonly substituted. With taste in the distribution of these and such like materials, and in the planting of the Ferns, a very pleasing effect may be produced ; and on rockwork of this kind, if it be erected in a shaded and sheltered situation, and liberally supplied with percolating

(not stagnant) water, nearly all the English Ferns may be grown.

It will, as a matter of course, suggest itself to the planter, that the most sunny, most exposed, and least moistened positions on the rockwork should be appropriated to those species which grow naturally in situations to which these conditions afford the nearest resemblance; while, on the other hand, the kinds which naturally prefer the deepest shade and the dampest soil, should be placed in the positions where these conditions are most nearly imitated.

Perhaps, however, the most interesting occupation for the amateur in Ferns consists in the cultivation of them under glass, either in pots, or planted in a Wardian case. All the species admit of being grown in pots, and when developed under the protection of a covering of glass, acquire more than their natural delicacy of appearance.

For general purposes the frame or case in which they are grown should have a northern aspect; the eastern and western aspects are less favourable, though with attention to shading during sunny weather, they may be adopted, and are at least much preferable to the southern, even with the advantage of shading. It is the heat, no less than the brightness of such an aspect, which is to be avoided; and

therefore, for all practical purposes, the nearer the situation in which they are grown approaches the northern aspect, the better. The plants must be kept cool in summer, by shading, by sprinkling, by not quite closing the frame in the day-time, and by removing all impediments to a free circulation of air all night.

Wardian cases for Ferns, in which they may be planted out on rockwork, may be either of the size and nature of a small detached greenhouse, or of those window or balcony greenhouses made by enclosing within a projecting sash, a greater or smaller area external to the window, or they may be of smaller size and more finished workmanship, for the interior of dwelling rooms, for stair-case landings, or any other situations within-doors, where they can be moderately lighted.

As a general rule, Ferns under cultivation do not require any manure. The most proper soil for them consists of the native earths called peat or bog earth, and sandy loam, mixed in about equal proportions, with a further admixture equal to an eighth of the whole mass for the coarser sorts, and of a fourth of the whole mass for the more delicate sorts, of any clean sharp grit, which is used for the purpose of preventing the too close adhesion and consolidation of



the particles ; the clean white sand, called Reigate sand, is that most generally employed.

The supply of water to Ferns under artificial conditions is a very essential matter ; they must never lack moisture, or their fragile texture shrinks as before a burning blast ; nor, with few exceptions, must the soil about them be kept continually wet with stagnant water ; indeed, stagnant water is in all cases to be avoided.

## DISTRIBUTION AND TOPOGRAPHICAL ASPECT.

THE species of Ferns known to botanists, including the lesser groups sometimes separated from what have been called the "true" Ferns, amount to something more than three thousand. Their head-quarters are the humid forests of tropical islands, in some of which they acquire a giant size, and in their tree-like habit become rivals to the noble Palms. The tree Ferns are not, however, numerous, the number of species having this habit bearing a small proportion to those of shrubby or herbaceous growth.

From the statistics which have been collected in reference to this question, it appears that the Ferns bear a higher proportion to the flowering plants both towards the equator and towards the poles; and that their proportional number is least in the middle of the temperate zone. They reach their absolute maximum in the torrid zone, amid the heat, moisture, and shade of the tropical forests; and their absolute minimum on the inhospitable shores of the polar regions.

The proportion borne by the Ferns to the whole mass of flowering plants, in the torrid zone, is stated at one in twenty; in the temperate zone at one in seventy; and in the frigid zone at an average of one in eight. In the most northern parts of the Arctic zone, none have yet been discovered.

In our own country, the proportion borne between these two great divisions of vegetation, is reckoned at one Fern to thirty-five flowering plants. In Scotland they stand relatively as one in thirty-one.

The forms which exist among the Ferns are very diversified, and this, no less than their variations of size and habit, renders them conspicuous objects in the scenery where they abound. They may all be classed under three divisions, so far as their leading features are concerned, namely, arborescent, shrubby, and herbaceous.

It is the former class, the arborescent species, chiefly, which exert a marked influence on the physiognomy of nature, for, as Meyen well remarks, they unite in themselves the majestic growth of the Palms, with the delicacy of the lower Ferns, and thus attain a beauty to which nature shows nothing similar. These truly arborescent species are principally confined to the torrid zone, their slender waving



trunks often beautifully pitted by the marks left on the falling away of the fronds ; they grow to a height of from twenty to fifty feet or more, from their tops sending out the feathery fronds, often many feet in length, and yet so delicate as to be put in motion by the gentlest breeze. On some of the East Indian Islands the tree Ferns occur as numerously as the crowded Firs in our plantations ; but wherever they are found—from the plains to an elevation of 3,000 to 4,000 feet—the soil and atmosphere are full of moisture. Very noble arborescent Ferns are found in New Zealand and Tasmania.

The shrubby Ferns, those with short stems, surmounted by tufted fronds, prevail rather at the tropics than at the equatorial zone, and are found less frequently at the foot of tropical mountains, than at an elevation of from 2,000 to 3,000 feet. Ferns of this aspect abound in the South Sea Islands. Mr. Colenso describes one of the New Zealand species as producing, from a main trunk twelve feet high, fronds which form a droop often of eighteen feet ; such plants, standing singly on the bank of a purling rill of water, being objects of surpassing beauty.

The herbaceous species are rather characteristic of the temperate and colder zones : not that their number in

warmer regions is less great, but their influence on the aspect of vegetation there is of a different character; they are more frequently parasitic in the tropics, and by their varied forms and colours, and the way in which they fix themselves, they give an air of peculiar luxuriance to the higher vegetation. Even in the temperate regions some of these herbaceous Ferns attain considerable height, as is the case with the common Bracken, which, in the hedge-rows of sheltered rural lanes in the south of England, reaches the height of eight or ten feet, and assumes the most graceful habit that can be conceived.

Wherever the Ferns occur, whether it be the herbaceous species of temperate climates, or the arborescent species of the equatorial regions, or the epiphytal species which clothe the trunks and branches of the trees in tropical forests, they add a marked and peculiar character of beauty and luxuriance to the scenery, and that to an extent which is not realized by any other race of plants.

## THE USES OF FERNS.

WE cannot make out a long catalogue of the uses of Ferns. Indeed, compared with their numbers and size, their usefulness to man is very limited; and the frigid utilitarian might be almost tempted to ask of Nature, wherefore she gave them birth. Her reply would, however, stay further interrogation: "They are given

'To minister delight to man,  
To beautify the earth.'

The Ferns are not, moreover, altogether without their use; for to the aborigines of various countries they furnish a rude means of subsistence. The pith of the stem or rhizome is the part usually employed for food, and this on account of the starch deposited in its tissue. Among the species which are thus employed as food—chiefly, however, where civilization has not become the dispenser of better fare—there is the *Cyathea medullaris*, *Marattia alata* and *elegans*, *Angiopteris evecta*; the Tasmanian *Tara*, *Pteris esculenta*; *Nephrodium esculentum*, *Diplazium esculentum*,



and *Gleichenia Hermannii*; and it is worth remark that these species represent almost all the principal groups into which Ferns are scientifically divided.

But while the child of nature turns to the Fern for food, his more civilized brother seeks in it a medicine; and he finds it! Two of our common native species, the Filix-mas and the Bracken, especially the former, have the reputation of being remedies against intestinal worms, in consequence of their bitter and astringent qualities, which properties are possessed by the stems of many other species. Another native Fern, the Royal Fern, has been successfully used in cases of rickets. From the astringent mucilage present in the green parts of many of the species, they are reckoned pectoral and lenitive; and both the native *Adiantum Capillus-Veneris*, and the American *Adiantum pedatum*, are thus employed in the form of capillaire, which is prepared from them by pouring boiling syrup over the fronds, and flavouring it with orange flowers; this preparation is considered undoubtedly pectoral, though if too strong it is said to be emetic. Other species of *Adiantum*, as well as some *Polypodiums*, *Acrostichums*, and *Nothochlænas*, are reported to possess medicinal properties.

Both the common Bracken and the Male Fern abound

in alkali, and are applied to various economic uses, as the manufacture of soap and glass, the dressing of leather, &c. These species have also been used in the preparation of beer; and the *Aspidium fragrans* has been employed as a substitute for tea.

The bruised leaves of *Angiopteris evecta* and *Polypodium phymatodes* are said to yield an aromatic oil, employed in perfuming the cocoa-nut oil of the South Sea Islands.

Deserving of especial mention in this place is the vegetable curiosity called the Barometz, Boranez, or Tartarian or Scythian lamb, of which marvellous tales have been told. This "lamb" consists merely of the decumbent shaggy rhizome of a Fern, what it has been supposed is that of the *Cibotium Barometz*; when turned upside down, the bases of four of its fronds being retained as legs, by the aid of a little manipulation, this not inaptly resembles some small animal, and may fairly rank as a vegetable curiosity.

The 'traveller's tale' on this subject is, that, on an elevated, uncultivated salt plain, of vast extent, west of the Volga, grows a wonderful plant, with the shape and appearance of a lamb, having feet, head, and tail distinctly formed, and its skin covered with soft down. The 'lamb' grows upon a stalk about three feet high, the part by which it is

sustained being a kind of navel; it turns about and bends to the herbage, which serves for its food, and when the grass fails it dries up, and pines away. The real facts are, that the rhizome of this plant, as already stated, does present a rude appearance of an animal; it is covered with silky down, and, if cut into, is seen to have a soft inside, with a reddish flesh-coloured appearance. And no doubt when the herbage of its native plains fails, its leaves, too, dry up, both perishing from the same cause, but having no dependence the one on the other. Thus it is that simple people have been persuaded, that in the deserts of Scythia there existed creatures which were half animal, half plant.



## SELECTION AND PRESERVATION FOR THE HERBARIUM.

FERNS are amongst the best of all plants for preservation in the form of an herbarium ; for in addition to their elegant appearance when nicely dried and arranged on sheets of clean white paper, they are less liable than most plants to the attacks of the destructive pests in the shape of insects, which commit such havoc among dried plants in general. We must give our inexperienced readers a few hints on the selection of specimens for this purpose.

The process of drying we need not describe in detail ; we shall merely remark, that they should be dried quickly, under moderately heavy pressure, among sheets of absorbent paper, which must be replaced by dried sheets as long as the plants continue to give out moisture. The thicker the bulk of paper placed between the specimens whilst under pressure, the better. Two or three changes will generally be sufficient, if the substituted sheets be in each case perfectly dry.

The smaller growing kinds should be gathered, if possible, in the tufts as they grow, preserving the whole mass of

fronds, with the stem and roots, the fronds being spread out in an easy and graceful form, and as far as possible kept quite flat, but not formally 'laid out' so as to destroy any peculiarity of habit which the species may possess.

If entire tufts cannot be obtained, and single fronds have to be substituted, they should be taken quite to the base, and must be removed from the stem with care, so that the scales, or hairs, or farinose powder, which may be present on the stalk, may be preserved equally with the frond itself.

Of larger growing species, single fronds only are manageable, and these, when of larger size than the folios in which the specimens are to be kept, must be folded to somewhat less than the length of the papers, *whilst yet fresh*.

Of the gigantic species, portions only of the fronds, corresponding in size with the paper to be used, can be preserved; but all of our native species, except in cases of extreme luxuriance, may, we believe, with a little judgment in the selection of specimens, be folded so as to allow of their being preserved in ordinary folios measuring eighteen inches by twelve inches, or thereabouts.

It is sometimes recommended to select specimens with the fructification mature. We should rather, as a general rule, advise their being gathered before the masses of spores reach

their full growth. If, however, more than a single specimen of each kind is preserved, the perfectly mature and the incipient states of fructification should also be gathered; but in the majority of cases the intermediate state will afford the best materials for subsequent examination and recognition.

Of course, when the species produces two or more kinds of fronds, examples of each must be preserved, as, for instance, in the *Allosorus crispus*, the fertile fronds of which alone would convey but a very indifferent notion of the plant. The necessity of attending to this point is even more strikingly apparent in such exotic genera as the *Struthiopteris*, and almost all the species related to the *Acrostichums*.

After being thoroughly dried under pressure, the specimens, according to their size, should be arranged, singly if large, or in groups resembling the natural tufts, if sufficiently small, on one side only of a series of sheets of stout white paper, to which they should be fastened by a few thread ties, or gummed straps, in preference to being pasted down with glue. The specimens, however, admit of a much more convenient and searching examination when kept loose in a folded sheet of paper; but if there should be frequent occasion to handle such loose specimens, they will be found much



more liable to become injured and broken than such as are fastened to the paper.

The specimens should be fully labelled, the labels giving at least their names, the locality where gathered, and the date ; and these labels should, as far as possible, be fixed with some degree of uniformity as to their position, so as to be readily referred to by turning up one of the corners of the sheets of paper.

The papers to which the specimens are affixed should be enclosed in paper covers, each genus separately ; and these covers should be placed either on the shelves of a cabinet, or in drawers, or in any convenient place where they may be preserved against dust, the attacks of insects, and other casualties.

## THE CLASSIFICATION OF FERNS.

THE first notions of classifying the Ferns, if we may judge from the Latin sentences which served as names for them in former times, were derived chiefly from the size, form, and general resemblance of the fronds, and the situations in which they grew. As, however, the knowledge of their structure and organization became extended, the insufficiency of such means of distinction and arrangement became apparent; and when the great Swedish botanist, Linnæus, set about the task of distributing the plants known to him, into family groups, he selected the fructification as the leading character of association, his groups of Ferns being formed from the resemblances in the form and position of the clusters of 'seed-vessels,' which we have already mentioned (p. 17), under the name of spore-cases.

Those who immediately succeeded him did but carry out to greater perfection, in accordance with increasing knowledge, the same general idea of family relationship, the most important additional characteristic called into requisition being that derived from the presence or absence of a general

investing membrane or cover to the spore-cases, and its form, origin, and mode of bursting when present. This, in fact, brings us to the basis of the classification which has prevailed till within comparatively very few years, and even, to some extent, to the present time.

Another feature has, however, latterly been adopted by many botanists skilled in the knowledge of Ferns, as forming the leading characteristic of their family relationship, the groups thus brought together representing the modern classification of Ferns. The feature thus adopted, as affording the marks of family recognition, is the veining of the fronds; and probably, as at present employed, in conjunction with the characters derived from the clusters of spore-cases and their covers, there is but little scope for further improvement. The tendency of the system is, however, towards subdivision of the family groups, and in this direction it is perhaps somewhat liable to err. We shall introduce a summary of the groups and species adapted to Mr. John Smith's plan of arrangement, in accordance with the venation; the picture presented by our few native species must not, however, be taken as a proper representation of this system of classification. In the more detailed descriptions it will be more convenient if we follow an alphabetical order.



A TABLE OF THE GROUPS AND GENERA OF THE BRITISH  
FERNS AND ALLIED PLANTS.

I. FERNS—*FILICES*.

Flowerless plants, bearing seed-vessels (spore-cases) on the backs or margins of their leaves (fronds). The British Ferns belong to groups which are called *Polypodiaceæ*, *Osmundaceæ*, and *Ophioglossaceæ*.

- i. POLYPODIACEÆ = Ferns having the leaves rolled up in a circinate or crozier-like manner while young, and the spore-cases girt with an elastic ring, and bursting in an irregular manner. It comprises the lesser groups of *Polypodiææ*, *Aspidiææ*, *Aspleniææ*, *Pteridiææ*, and *Dicksoniææ*.

A. POLYPODIÆÆ = Ferns whose clusters of spore-cases have no special membranous cover (indusium). It contains the genera *Polypodium* and *Allosorus*.

1. *Polypodium* = Dorsal-fruited Ferns, with the sori exposed.

2. *Allosorus* = Dorsal-fruited Ferns, with the sori covered by reflexed, unaltered margins of the frond.
- B. ASPIDIÆ = Ferns whose sori have a special indusium, of a circular or roundish form, and springing here and there, from the back of the veins. It contains the genera *Woodsia*, *Lastrea*, *Polystichum*, and *Cystopteris*.
3. *Woodsia* = Dorsal-fruited Ferns, having the indusium attached beneath the sori, and divided into hair-like segments.
  4. *Lastrea* = Dorsal-fruited Ferns, having a reniform indusium, attached by its indented side.
  5. *Polystichum* = Dorsal-fruited Ferns, having a circular indusium, attached by its centre.
  6. *Cystopteris* = Dorsal-fruited Ferns, having a cucullate or hooded indusium, attached by its broad base.
- C. ASPLENIÆ = Ferns whose sori have a special indusium, of an oblong or elongated form, and springing from the sides of the veins. It contains the genera *Athyrium*, *Asplenium*, *Ceterach*, and *Scolopendrium*.
7. *Athyrium* = Dorsal-fruited Ferns, having an oblong reniform indusium, attached by its concave side, the other side fringed with hair-like segments.

8. *Asplenium* = Dorsal-fruited Ferns, having the indusium straight and elongate, and attached by the side towards the margin of the pinnæ or pinnules.
  9. *Ceterach* = Dorsal-fruited Ferns, having the indusium obsolete, and the sori hidden among densely imbricated, rust-coloured, chaffy scales.
  10. *Scolopendrium* = Dorsal-fruited Ferns, having the sori elongate, and proximate in parallel pairs, the indusium opening along the centre of the twin sorus.
- D. PTERIDÆ* = Ferns, the margin of whose fronds is either soriferous, and continuously or interruptedly changed into a special indusium, or whose spore-cases are in lines parallel with the margin. It contains the genera *Pteris*, *Adiantum*, and *Blechnum*.
11. *Pteris* = Dorsal-fruited Ferns, having the spore-cases in a continuous line at the edge of the frond, beneath an indusium formed of the altered margin.
  12. *Adiantum* = Dorsal-fruited Ferns, having the spore-cases in patches, on the reflexed, altered apices of the lobes of the fronds.



13. *Blechnum* = Dorsal-fruited Ferns, having the spore-cases in a continuous line between the midrib and margin of the divisions of the frond.
- E. DICKSONIÆ* = Ferns whose sori are (in the British species) produced around the ends of veins projecting from the margin, and surrounded by an urn-shaped or two-valved membrane. It contains the genera *Trichomanes* and *Hymenophyllum*.
14. *Trichomanes* = Marginal-fruited Ferns, having the sori surrounded by urn-shaped expansions of the frond.
15. *Hymenophyllum* = Marginal-fruited Ferns, having the sori surrounded by two-valved expansions of the frond.
- ii. *OSMUNDACEÆ* = Ferns having the young leaves circinate, the spore-cases destitute of an elastic ring, and bursting by two regular valves. It contains the genus *Osmunda*.
16. *Osmunda* = Marginal-fruited Ferns, having the regular valved spore-cases in irregular, dense, branching clusters, terminating the fronds.
- iii. *OPHIOGLOSSACEÆ* = Ferns having the young leaves folded up straight, the spore-cases destitute of an elastic ring,

and two-valved. It contains the genera *Botrychium* and *Ophioglossum*.

17. *Ophioglossum* = Marginal-fruited Ferns, having the spore-cases sessile in two-ranked simple spikes terminating a separate branch of the frond.
18. *Botrychium* = Marginal-fruited Ferns, having the spore-cases in irregularly branched clusters, on a separate branch of the frond.

## II. CLUB-MOSSES—*LYCOPODIACEÆ*.

Flowerless plants, bearing spore-cases in the axils of their leaves, and having reproductive bodies of two different kinds, but of a similar nature. They consist of the genus *Lycopodium*.

19. *Lycopodium* = Moss-like plants, with leafy stems, having the fructifications elevated in terminal spikes, or in the axils of the leaves.

## III. PEPPERWORTS—*MARSILEACEÆ*.

Flowerless plants, bearing axillary or radical spore-cases, and reproductive bodies of two dissimilar sorts. They comprise the genera *Isoetes* and *Pilularia*.

20. *Isoetes* = Stemless, quill-leaved, aquatic plants, with the fructifications at the base, enclosed within the bases of the leaves.
21. *Pilularia* = Creeping, slender-leaved, aquatic plants, with the fructification in globular, sessile, four-celled spore-cases.

#### IV. HORSETAILS—*EQUISETACEÆ*.

Flowerless plants, with peltate spore-cases, arranged in terminal cones. This group consists of the genus *Equisetum*.

22. *Equisetum* = Jointed, tubular-stemmed plants, with terminal cones of fructification.



A TABLE OF THE SPECIES AND VARIETIES OF BRITISH  
FERNS, &c.

I. FILICES.

A. POLYPODIACEÆ § POLYPODIEÆ.

i. POLYPODIUM, *Linnæus*.

1. *P. vulgare*, *Linnæus*.—Fronds pinnatifid. Plate I.  
fig. 2.

*b. cambricum*.—Fronds twice pinnatifid.

2. *P. Phegopteris*, *Linnæus*.—Fronds sub-pinnate.  
Plate II. fig. 2.

3. *P. Dryopteris*, *Linnæus*.—Fronds ternate, glabrous.  
Plate II. fig. 1.

4. *P. calcareum*, *Smith*.—Fronds ternate, glandular-  
mealy. Plate III. fig. 1.

ii. ALLOSORUS, *Bernhardi*.

1. *A. crispus*, *Bernhardi*.—The only species. Plate V.  
fig. 1.

B. POLYPODIACEÆ § ASPIDIEÆ.

iii. WOODSIA, *R. Brown*.

1. *W. ilvensis*, *R. Brown.*—Pinnæ oblong, deeply lobed. Plate III. fig. 2.
2. *W. hyperborea*, *R. Brown.*—Pinnæ bluntly triangular, lobed. Plate IV. fig. 1.

iv. *LASTREA*, *Presl.*

1. *L. Thelypteris*, *Presl.*—Fronds pinnate, not glandular; sori sub-marginal on sub-contracted fronds. Plate VI. fig. 1.
2. *L. Oreopteris*, *Presl.*—Fronds pinnate, glandular beneath. Plate VII.
3. *L. Filix-mas*, *Presl.*—Fronds sub-bipinnate or bipinnate, broadly lanceolate. Plate VIII.
  - b. incisa.*—Larger, pinnules elongate, with deep serrated incisions.
  - c. abbreviata.*—Smaller, pinnules contracted or obsolete.
  - d. multifida.*—Pinnæ tasselled at the end. Plate VIII. upper figure.
4. *L. rigida*, *Presl.*—Fronds bipinnate, without spinulose serratures, glandular. Plate IX. fig. 1.
5. *L. cristata*, *Presl.*—Fronds pinnate or sub-bipinnate, narrow linear, pinnules oblong. Plate VI. fig. 2.

*b. uliginosa*.—Fronds (fertile) bipinnate at the base, pinnules oblong, acute.

6. *L. spinulosa*, *Presl.*—Fronds linear, bipinnate, with spinulose serratures, scales ovate.

7. *L. dilatata*, *Presl.*—Fronds oblong- or ovate-lanceolate, bi-tri-pinnate, with spinulose serratures, scales lanceolate. Plate IX. fig. 2.

*b. collina*.—Pinnules ovate, blunt, bluntly mucronate-serrate.

8. *L. fœnisecii*, *Watson.*—Fronds triangular, bipinnate, pinnules concave above.

v. *POLYSTICHUM*, *Roth.*

1. *P. Lonchitis*, *Roth.*—Fronds pinnate. Plate IV. fig. 2.

2. *P. aculeatum*, *Roth.*—Fronde bipinnate, pinnules acutely wedge-shaped at the base.

*b. lobatum*.—Fronds narrower, pinnules nearly all decurrent. Plate IV. fig. 3.

3. *P. angulare*, *Newman.*—Fronds bipinnate, pinnules obtusely angled at the base, stalked. Pl. V. fig. 2.

*b. subtripinnatum*.—Pinnules pinnatifid.

vi. *CYSTOPTERIS*, *Bernhardi.*

1. *C. fragilis*, *Bernhardi.*—Fronds lanceolate, bipin-



- nate, pinnules ovate, acute; sori central. Plate X. fig. 1.
- b. dentata.*—Pinnules ovate, obtuse, distinct; sori marginal.
- c. Dickiana.*—Pinnules broad, obtuse, overlapping; sori marginal.
2. *C. alpina, Desvaux.*—Fronds sub-tripinnate, segments linear. Plate X. fig. 2.
3. *C. montana, Link.*—Fronds triangular. Plate XIV. fig. 2.

C. POLYPODIACEÆ § ASPLENIEÆ.

vii. ATHYRIUM, *Roth.*

1. *A. Filix-fœmina, Roth.*—The only species. Pinnules flat, linear-oblong. Plate XI.
- b. convexum.*—Pinnules narrow, distinct, linear, convex.
- c. latifolium.*—Pinnules broad ovate, crowded, irregularly lobed.
- d. molle.*—Pinnules oblong, flat, decurrent.
- e. multifidum.*—Pinnæ and frond tasselled at the apex. Plate XI.
- f. crispum.*—Dwarf, irregularly branched, with the ends tasselled.

*g. marinum*.—Fronds narrowed to the base, decumbent, pinnules oblong, rachis winged.

viii. *ASPENIUM*, *Linnaeus*.

1. *A. septentrionale*, *Hull*.—Frond linear-lanceolate, two-three-cleft. Plate XII. fig. 3.
2. *A. germanicum*, *Weiss*.—Fronds linear, alternately pinnate, pinnæ narrow wedge-shaped; indusium entire. Plate XIII. fig. 3.
3. *A. Ruta-muraria*, *Linnaeus*.—Fronds bipinnate, pinnules wedge-shaped at the base; indusium jagged. Plate XIII. fig. 1.
4. *A. viride*, *Hudson*.—Fronds linear, pinnate, rachis green above. Plate XIII. fig. 4.
5. *A. Trichomanes*, *Linnaeus*.—Fronds linear, pinnate, rachis black throughout. Plate XIII. fig. 5.  
*b. incisum*.—Pinnæ deeply lobed.
6. *A. marinum*, *Linnaeus*.—Fronds pinnate, rachis winged. Plate XIV. fig. 1.
7. *A. fontanum*, *R. Brown*.—Fronds bipinnate, narrow lanceolate, rachis winged, smooth. Plate XIII. fig. 2.
8. *A. lanceolatum*, *Hudson*.—Fronds bipinnate, broad lanceolate, rachis not winged, scaly. Pl. XII. fig. 1.

9. A. *Adiantum-nigrum*, *Linnaeus*.—Fronde bipinnate, triangular. Plate XII. fig. 2.

ix. CETERACH, *Willdenow*.

1. C. *officinarium*, *Willdenow*.—The only species. Plate I. fig. 1.

x. SCOLOPENDRIUM, *Smith*.

1. S. *vulgare*, *Symons*.—The only species. Fronds strap-shaped, entire. Plate XV. fig. 1.

b. *polyschides*.—Fronds narrow, irregularly lobed, fertile.

c. *crispum*.—Fronds much undulated at the margin, usually barren.

d. *multifidum*.—Fronds multifid at the apex.

D. POLYPODIACEÆ & PTERIDEÆ.

xi. PTERIS, *Linnaeus*.

1. P. *aquilina*, *Linnaeus*.—The only species.

a. *vera*.—Inferior pinnules pinnatifid.

b. *integerrima*.—All the pinnules entire. Plate XVII. fig. 1.

xii. ADIANTUM, *Linnaeus*.

1. A. *Capillus-Veneris*, *Linnaeus*.—The only species. Plate XVI. fig. 1.



xiii. BLECHNUM, *Linnaeus*.

1. B. Spicant, *Roth*.—The only species. Plate XVI. fig. 2.

## E. POLYPODIACEÆ § DICKSONIÆ.

xiv. TRICHOMANES, *Linnaeus*.

1. T. radicans, *Swartz*.—The only species. Plate XVIII. fig. 1.

xv. HYMENOPHYLLUM, *Smith*.

1. H. tunbridgense, *Smith*.—Pinnæ vertical, involucre compressed, serrate. Plate XV. fig. 2.
2. H. unilaterale, *Willdenow*.—Pinnæ unilateral, involucre inflated, entire. Plate XV. fig. 3.

## F. OSMUNDACEÆ.

xvi. OSMUNDA, *Linnaeus*.

1. O. regalis, *Linnaeus*.—The only species. Plate XIX. fig. 2.

## G. OPHIOGLOSSACEÆ.

xvii. OPHIOGLOSSUM, *Linnaeus*.

1. O. vulgatum, *Linnaeus*.—The only species. Plate XVIII. fig. 3.

xviii. BOTRYCHIUM, *Linnaeus*.

1. B. Lunaria, *Linnaeus*.—The only species. Plate XVIII. fig. 2.

## II. LYCOPODIACEÆ.

xix. LYCOPODIUM, *Linnaeus*.

1. *L. alpinum*, *Linnaeus*.—Leaves in four rows, appressed; spikes solitary, sessile.
2. *L. Selago*, *Linnaeus*.—Leaves in eight rows, imbricated on the usually erect stems; fructifications in the axils of leaves, not spiked. Pl. XX. fig. 5.
3. *L. annotinum*, *Linnaeus*.—Leaves indistinctly five-rowed, linear-lanceolate, patent; spikes solitary, sessile.
4. *L. clavatum*, *Linnaeus*.—Leaves scattered, incurved, hair-pointed; spikes two or more on a stalk. Plate XX. fig. 6.
5. *L. inundatum*, *Linnaeus*.—Leaves scattered, curved upwards, linear; spikes solitary, sessile. Plate XX. fig. 4.
6. *L. selaginoides*, *Linnaeus*.—Leaves scattered, half-spreading, lanceolate; spikes solitary, sessile.

## III. MARSILEACEÆ.

xx. ISOETES, *Linnaeus*.

1. *I. lacustris*, *Linnaeus*.—The only species. Plate XIX. fig. 1.

xxi. PILULARIA, *Linnaeus*.

1. *P. globulifera*, *Linnaeus*.—The only species. Plate XVII. fig. 2.

## IV. EQUISETACEÆ.

xxii. EQUISETUM, *Linnaeus*.

1. *E. Telmateia*, *Ehrhart*.—Stems dissimilar, the sterile branched, smooth, with about thirty ridges, the fertile simple, short, with large crowded sheaths, and subulate two-ribbed teeth. Plate XX. fig. 2.
2. *E. umbrosum*, *Willdenow*.—Stems dissimilar, the sterile branched, rough, with about twenty ridges, the fertile simple, with approximate appressed sheaths, having subulate one-ribbed teeth.
3. *E. arvense*, *Linnaeus*.—Stems dissimilar, the sterile branched, slightly rough, with from ten to sixteen ridges, the fertile simple, with distant, loose sheaths, having long pointed teeth.
4. *E. sylvaticum*, *Linnaeus*.—Stems similar, with about twelve ridges, and having loose sheaths terminating in three or four large blunt lobes; branches deflexed. Plate XX. fig. 3.
5. *E. limosum*, *Linnaeus*.—Stems similar, smooth, with



- numerous slight ridges, the sheaths green, close, with from sixteen to twenty sharp-pointed dark-coloured teeth; branches short, few, often wanting.
6. *E. palustre*, *Linnaeus*.—Stems similar, slightly rough, with from six to eight broad prominent ridges, the sheaths pale, loose, with acute wedge-shaped, brown-tipped teeth; branches erect.
7. *E. Mackaii*, *Newman*.—Stems similar, very rough, with from eight to twelve ridges, and having close sheaths, which alternately become wholly black, and have narrow subulate teeth; almost branchless.
8. *E. hyemale*, *Linnaeus*.—Stems similar, very rough, with from fourteen to twenty ridges, and having close whitish sheaths banded with black at the top and bottom; the teeth slender, deciduous; almost branchless. Plate XX. fig. 1.
9. *E. variegatum*, *Weber et Mohr*.—Stems similar, very rough, with from four to ten ridges, and having slightly enlarged sheaths, green below, black above, with obtuse teeth tipped by a deciduous bristle; almost branchless.
- b. Wilsoni*.—Stems less rough, taller.

## THE BRITISH FERNS.

“ Sweet to muse upon His skill display’d  
 (Infinite skill) in all that He has made !  
 To trace in Nature’s most minute design  
 The signature and stamp of power Divine ;  
 Contrivance intricate, express’d with ease,  
 Where uninstructed sight no beauty sees !”

Genus XII. ADIANTUM,\* *Linnaeus*.

THE *Adiantum*, or Maiden-hair, may be known among the British Ferns by its almost fan-shaped leaflets or pinnules, which are attached by their narrow end, to the little black hair-like stalks. This, however, though sufficient by which to recognize it, among the very limited number of kinds which are found in a wild state in Britain, is not its proper distinctive mark. The real characteristics lie in the veins and in the sori: the former may be readily seen by holding a pinnule between the eye and a strong light, and the latter by lifting up the little reflexed lobes which occur here and

\* The Genera are arranged for facility of reference in alphabetical order. Their place in the systematic arrangement is denoted by their No., which agrees with the preceding Table.

there at the margin on the under surface. The veins will be seen to be dichotomously forked, that is, separating into two equal branches, beginning from the base upwards, the forking being several times repeated, producing close parallel radiating venules which extend to the margin. The sori are produced *on* the reflexed (or bent under) membranous expansions of the margin of the fronds which form the indusia, these indusia being traversed by veins which bear the sori. There is only one native species, which possesses these characteristics, and this is certainly one of the most beautiful, as it is also one of the rarer of our indigenous Ferns; and being of small size and of evergreen habit, it is one of the most desirable of all for culture in a Wardian case.

The name of the genus comes from the Greek *adiantos*, which signifies dry, or unmoistened; and is applicable to these plants, from their possessing in a remarkable degree the property of repelling water. It is, in fact, impossible to wet the surface of their pinnules, when the fronds are in a fresh state and in good health, the water being cast off as though from an oily surface.

ADIANTUM CAPILLUS-VENERIS, *Linnaeus*.—The Maiden-hair Fern. (Plate XVI. fig. 1.)

A small evergreen species, furnished with a very short



creeping stem, which is clothed with small black scales, and bears delicate, graceful, somewhat drooping fronds, of six inches to a foot high. These fronds are usually of an irregularly ovate form, sometimes elongate, occasionally approaching to linear. Finely developed fronds are about thrice pinnate; but the less vigorous fronds are usually only twice pinnate, with alternate pinnæ and pinnules; and sometimes fronds are found which are only once pinnate. The ultimate pinnules, or leaflets, are very irregular in shape, but for the most part have a wedge-shaped or tapering base, and a more or less rounded and oblique apex, and they have generally some variation of a fan-shaped or rhomboidal outline. The margin is more or less deeply lobed, the apices of the lobes in the fertile pinnules being reflexed and changed into membranous indusia, whilst the lobes of the barren fronds are serrated; their texture is thin and membranaceous, their surface smooth, their colour a cheerful green. The stipes, which is about half as long as the frond, and furnished with a few small scales at the base, is black and shining, as also are the rachis, the ultimate ramifications of which are small and hair-like.

The veins throughout the pinnules are forked on a dichotomous or two-branched plan, from the base upwards,

the venules lying parallel, and extending in straight lines towards the margins, terminating in the barren fronds in the serratures of the margin, but in the fertile fronds extending into the indusium, there forming the receptacles to which the spore-cases are attached. The sori are oblong, covered by indusia of the same form, each consisting of the apex of one of the lobes of the frond, changed to a membranous texture, and folded under. The sori are, as already mentioned, seated on this membranous reflexed lobe, and by this circumstance the genus may at once be detected by those who are not conversant with its easily recognized *primâ facie* appearances.

The Maiden-hair is a local plant, though it has a wide geographical range. It is found here and there in the warmer parts of Great Britain and Ireland, evidently preferring cavernous and rocky situations within the influence of the sea. What is believed to be the same species is found in the warmer parts of Europe, in Asia, in the north of Africa, and in the Canaries and Cape de Verd Islands.

It is, moreover, a tender plant, and does not thrive under cultivation in the climate even of the south of England, unless sheltered in a frame or green-house, or by being covered with a glass. In a Wardian case it grows well;

and attains great luxuriance in a damp hot-house. The proper soil for it is very light turfy peat, mixed with a considerable proportion of silver sand, and it is beneficial to plant it on or around a small lump of free sandstone.

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Genus II. ALLOSORUS, *Bernhardi*.

OF this family we have but one British species, the *Allosorus crispus*. It is known from all its fellow-country-ferns by the coincidence of the following features. It bears fronds of two kinds, one being leafy and barren, or without sori, the other contracted, and bearing sori, and hence called fertile. The edges of the lobes of the fertile fronds are rolled under (which is what gives them the contracted appearance), and covers the sori in the stead of a special indusium; the sori when young form distinct circular clusters beneath this recurved margin, but as they grow they join laterally (in technical language, they become confluent), forming two lines of fructification lengthwise the segments of the fronds.

The name *Allosorus* is compounded from the Greek, and comes from *allos*, which means various, and *sorus*, which



means a heap; the intention being to indicate the variation or change which occurs in the apparent arrangement of the sori, from the distinct patches to the continuous lines in which they are seen to be disposed, if examined at different stages of development—the change, after all, being only apparent, and not real.

*ALLOSORUS CRISPUS*, *Bernhardi*.—The Rock Brakes, or Mountain Parsley. (Plate V. fig. 1.)

This elegant little plant, which has considerable first-sight resemblance to a tuft of parsley, and is hence sometimes called Mountain Parsley, grows in a dense tuft, throwing up its fronds in May or June, and losing them in the course of the autumn. The fronds average about six inches in height, and are generally almost triangular, with a longish, slender, smooth stalk. They are of two kinds; both kinds twice or thrice pinnate, and of a pale green colour. The segments into which the fruitless fronds are cut, are more or less wedge-shaped, and notched or cleft at the end. The fertile fronds have the segments of an oval or oblong or linear form.

The divisions of the fertile frond have a slightly tortuous midvein, producing simple or forked venules which extend nearly to the margin, each, for the most part, bearing



1.

2.

W. Eitch del et lith.

*Allosorus crispus*

64

*Polystichum angulare*  
158

Reeve & Nichols. imp.





near its extremity a circular sorus. There is no true indusium, but the sori are covered by the reflexed and partially bleached margins which almost meet behind, and by which they are quite concealed. These patches are at first distinct, but ultimately meet laterally.

The Rock Brakes is a mountain Fern, choosing to grow in stony situations. It is comparatively rare and local; most abundant in the north of England and Wales, and less plentiful in Scotland and Ireland. It grows readily in pots, and also in a Wardian case, for either of which modes of cultivation its small size and elegant aspect render it a very desirable object.

This Fern has been called by several other names, of which the principal are—*Cryptogramma crispa*, *Pteris crispa*, and *Osmunda crispa*. The two latter are now quite obsolete.

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Genus VIII. ASPLENIUM, *Linnaeus*.

THE British *Aspleniums* are small evergreen Ferns, with long narrow single sori lying in the direction of the veins which traverse them; and by these marks they may be

known from all other indigenous Ferns, excepting the *Ceterach*, which latter is readily distinguished from them by having the back of its fronds coated with brown scales, among which the sori are hidden. They are the types of the tribe *Asplenieæ*, which consists of Ferns having the elongate masses of fructification attached along the side of the veins, and covered by an indusium of the same elongated form as the sori themselves. The *Aspleniums* are known from their nearest allies, the *Athyriums*, by the latter having the free margin of the indusium fringed with capillary or hair-like segments, while the margin of the indusium of *Asplenium* is either quite entire or very slightly jagged. There are nine species of *Asplenium* indigenous to Britain, and all of them are interesting to the cultivators of Ferns.

The word *Asplenium* comes from the Greek *asplenon*; a name applied by old authors to some kind of Fern possessed of supposed virtues in curing diseases of the spleen.

ASPLENium ADIANTUM-NIGRUM, *Linncæus*.—The Black Spleenwort. (Plate XII. fig. 2.)

This is a rather common evergreen Fern, and a very conspicuous ornament of the situations where it occurs in a vigorous state. The fronds grow in tufts, and vary much in size, from a height of three or four inches when it occurs

on walls, to a foot and a half and even two feet including the stipes, when it occurs on shady hedge-banks in congenial soil. The fronds are triangular, more or less elongated at the point, the shining dark purple stipes being often as long as, or longer than, the leafy portion, but in stunted plants growing in sterile situations very much shorter; they grow erect or drooping, according to the situations in which they occur. They are bipinnate, or sometimes tripinnate; the pinnæ pinnate, triangular-ovate, drawn out at the point, the lower pair always longer than the next above them. The pinnules, especially those on the larger pinnæ, are again pinnate; the alternate pinnules being deeply lobed, and the margins sharply serrate.

The fronds are of a thick leathery texture, with numerous veins. To each pinnule there is a distinct midvein or principal vein, bearing simple or branched venules, on which the sori are produced. All the ultimate divisions of the fronds, as well as all the larger lobes, have midveins producing these simple or branched venules, and these bear the sori near their junction with the midvein, so that the sori are placed near the centre of every pinnule or lobe. At first the sori are distinct, and have the elongate narrow form common to this genus, but as they become older they



often spread and become confluent, so that almost the entire under-surface of the frond is covered with the spore-cases. The indusium is narrow, with its free margin entire; this soon becomes pushed away by the growing sori, and is lost.

This species is very variable. In dry and exposed places it is small, and obtuse in its parts, whilst in sheltered, shady places it is much drawn out or elongated. The extreme states have been considered as varieties; and it is true that occasionally there occur plants of which this bluntness seems characteristic, and to these the name of *obtusum* is sometimes given; while on the other hand, sometimes, but rarely, the form in which all the parts are much narrowed and very acute is met with, and this is called *acutum*. These differences become less marked in the cultivated plants than in those which occur in a wild state, and hence they seem hardly to deserve to be considered as permanent varieties. The species has also been met with having the fronds variegated with white.

The ordinary forms of the plant are very commonly met with growing on rocks or old walls, and on hedge-banks in a sandy soil. The latter situations, where they grow most vigorously, are often beautifully adorned by the drooping

tufts in which they occur. The extreme forms are more rare.

This is one of the more useful evergreen Ferns for shady rockwork, as it will grow with freedom if planted in sandy soil, which is just kept moistened either by natural or artificial means. As a pot plant it is easily manageable.

The blunt-leaved variety alluded to above, is believed to be the *A. obtusum*, and the narrowed form the *A. acutum*, of continental authors.

ASPLENIUM FONTANUM, *R. Brown.*—The Smooth Rock Spleenwort. (Plate XIII. fig. 2.)

This is a small tufted-growing species, seldom seen more than three or four inches high under ordinary circumstances; in a hot-house, where its parts become more lengthened, it sometimes reaches six or eight inches high, but we never saw this stature exceeded in cultivated plants, and it is but rarely attained. The small fronds are evergreen, and mostly grow nearly upright; they are of a narrow, lanceolate form, rather rigid in texture, of a deep green above, paler beneath, and supported on a very short stipes, which has a few narrow, pointed scales at the base. In division they are bipinnate, the pinnæ being oblong-ovate, and the pinnules obovate, tapering to the base, the superior basal pinnule of

each pinna having the margin divided by four or five deep, sharp teeth, the rest of the pinnules and lobes having from one to three similar teeth. The main rachis of the frond, as well as the partial rachis of each pinna, have a narrow winged margin, that is to say, a very narrow leafy expansion along their sides, throughout their length; and this is perhaps the most obvious technical point, except size, by which to distinguish the present plant from *A. lanceolatum*. In structural details they very much resemble each other, so that in description they appear very similar, although to the eye they are at all times distinct.

The fronds being rigid and opaque, the venation is less evident than is usual in Ferns. It consists, in each pinnule, of a central or principal vein, which throws off a venule towards each lobe or serrature, and in the larger pinnules some of these venules become divided, so that a veinlet is directed towards each of the serratures into which the margin is divided. On two or more of these veins a sorus is produced, which in form is short compared with those produced by most of the genus; the actual form is oblong, rather flat on the side by which they are attached; and they are covered by an indusium of similar form, which is waved and indented on the free margin. Sometimes the sori keep



quite distinct, but it is not uncommon for them to become confluent so as to cover nearly all the under-surface of the whole of the little pinnules.

There are some who doubt this species being really a native of Britain, on the ground that it is not now to be found in the places where it is said to have been originally met with. We have been favoured by Mr. Shepherd, of Liverpool, for many years a cultivator of Ferns, with a frond gathered at Matlock, in Derbyshire. It has, moreover, been met with on a very old wall at Tooting, and also on rocks near Stonehaven; and considering that it is a very small plant, and that the places where it would be most likely to occur are generally the most inaccessible, and, therefore, the least likely to be searched—considering, moreover, the many probable localities which exist, and have not been carefully explored by any keen botanical eye, we think the probability is that it is really indigenous, though from these causes it is overlooked. While so many probabilities exist in favour of its being native, we are not justified in rejecting the statements which the older botanists have left us.

This species is too rare to be often trusted on rock-work, unless where every provision, such as shade, shelter, and

moisture, has been made for it ; but planted in a well-drained pot, and kept in a close, cold frame, or in a damp hot-house, it grows freely, becoming much more vigorous under the influence of heat.

The other names which have been given to this Fern, besides that here adopted, are these:—*Aspidium fontanum*, *Athyrium fontanum*, *Polypodium fontanum*, and *Aspidium Halleri*.

ASPLENIUM GERMANICUM, *Weiss*.—The Alternate Spleenwort. (Plate XIII. fig. 3.)

One of the rarest of our native Ferns, and perfectly distinct from *A. Ruta-muraria*, of which some botanists have thought it to be a variety. It grows in little tufts, the fronds being from three to six inches high, sub-evergreen, narrow-linear in form, pinnate, divided into distant, alternate, wedge-shaped pinnæ, one or two of the lowest having generally a pair of very deeply divided lobes, the upper ones more and more slightly lobed, all having their upper ends toothed or notched.

The whole fronds are quite small, and the parts narrow, which, added to their opacity, renders the venation indistinct ; there is no midvein, but each pinna or lobe has a vein entering from the base, which becomes two or three

times branched as it reaches the broader parts upwards, six or eight veins generally lying close together, in a narrow fan-shaped manner, in each of the larger pinnae, the smaller ones having a proportionately less number. Two or three linear sori are produced on a pinna, and these are covered by membranous indusia, the free margin of which is entire, or slightly sinuous, but not jagged; the sori at length become confluent.

Very rarely met with in Scotland, but nowhere else in the United Kingdom. It is found, but very sparingly, in other parts of Europe.

This kind is not only rare, but one of those which does not freely yield to artificial culture. It grows tolerably freely if potted in well-drained, sandy peat-soil, and kept under a bell-glass in a shaded frame—or better in a hot-house; but the plants are very liable to die in winter. The safeguard is, not to allow any water to lodge about their crowns, nor to keep the bell-glass too closely or too constantly over them.

This species is often named *A. alternifolium* by British authors; but the name we have adopted claims precedence. It has also been called *Asplenium Breynii*, *Amesium germanicum*, and *Scolopendrium alternifolium*.



*ASPLENIUM LANCEOLATUM*, *Hudson*. — The Lanceolate Spleenwort. (Plate XII. fig. 1.)

We have here an evergreen Fern of variable size, seldom in cultivation having the vigour which it exhibits near the coast in our south-western counties, and especially in the Channel Islands. As might be expected, it evidently requires a mild and sheltered climate, so that in a hot-house, where the temperature is not kept too high, it grows freely, which can seldom be said of plants kept in a cold frame in the climate of London, and never of plants fully exposed. Under the least favourable circumstances its fronds are from four to six inches long; but under the most favourable conditions they reach the length of a foot, or even a foot and a half. The fronds are of a lanceolate form, supported on a brownish-coloured stipes of about a third of their entire length, the stipes as well as the rachis having, scattered throughout their length, numerous small bristle-like scales. In the more vigorous wild plants the habit seems to be erect, but the cultivated plants mostly assume a spreading or even decumbent mode of growth. This species is very closely related to the common *Asplenium Adiantum-nigrum*, which, in some of its states, very much resembles it; but the outline of the fronds will, we believe, always

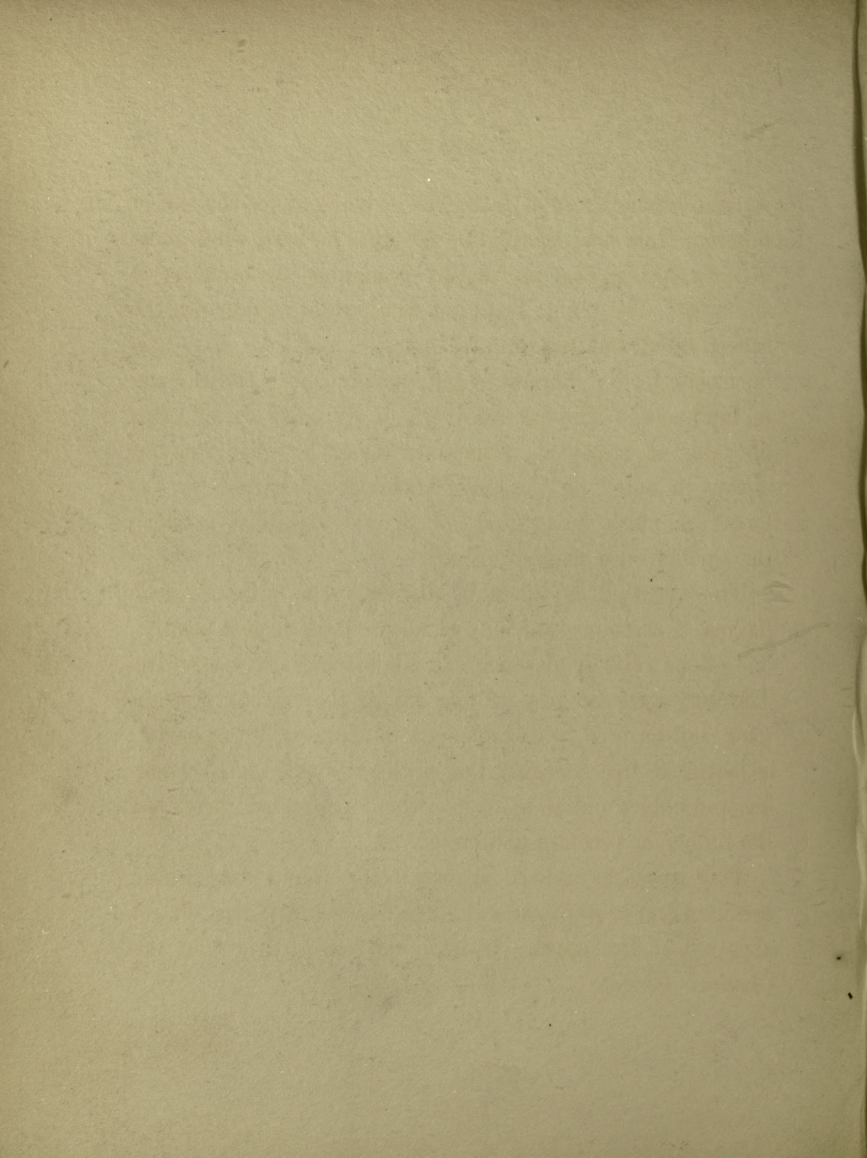


3. *A. Septentrionale*  
79

*Adiantum lanceolatum*  
74

*A. Adiantum-nigrum* Reeve & Nichols, imp.  
66

Fig. del. et lith.





separate them, those of *lanccolatum* being lance-shaped, or tapering from near the middle towards the base, while those of *Adiantum-nigrum* are always triangular, or broadest at the base. The pinnæ spread at nearly right angles with the rachis, often, but not always, opposite, and have an ovate-lanceolate form; they are again pinnate, so that the frond is bipinnate. The pinnules are of irregular form, often obovate, or nearly so, sometimes unequally quadrate, but always indented on the margin with deep, sharp teeth, the larger pinnules being first lobed, and the lobes toothed, the smaller ones simply toothed.

The venation is tolerably distinct; the pinnules each having a tortuous midvein, which produces forked venules, one of the veinlets of which extends towards each serrature. The sori have no very definite order; they are at first oblong, and covered by an indusium of the same form, having a lacerated free margin; but as they become old the sides become bulged out so as to give them a roundish form, and the indusium becomes obliterated.

This is rather a local species, being found only in the southern and western parts of England, and in Wales, almost always near the coast. It is found very luxuriant in the Channel Islands.

ASPLENIUM MARINUM, *Linnaeus*.—The Sea Spleenwort.  
(Plate XIV. fig. 1.)

This very handsome evergreen Fern, like the Lanceolate Spleenwort, is a maritime species, occurring profusely on our south-western rocky coasts and in the Channel Isles, and extending to France and Spain, to Madeira and the Canaries. In cultivation it thrives most luxuriantly in the atmosphere of a damp hot-house, where it forms, in a comparatively short time, a dense mass of the deepest green, and often reaching a foot and a half in height. In a cold frame, if kept closed, well-established plants will continue in health, progressing slowly, and never acquiring half the size of those grown in heat. In the climate of London it does not prosper, nor, as far as we know, survive, if planted on exposed rock-work. It is a tufted-growing species, with linear or linear-lanceolate fronds, usually six or eight inches long, of the deepest glossy green, with a smooth, rather short, dark brown stipes. The fronds are simply pinnate, with stalked pinnæ, connected at their base by a narrow wing which extends along the rachis; their form is either obtusely ovate or oblong, unequal at the base, the anterior base being much developed, while the posterior is, as it were, cut away, the margin being either serrated or crenated.



*Cystopteris montana*  
109

1.

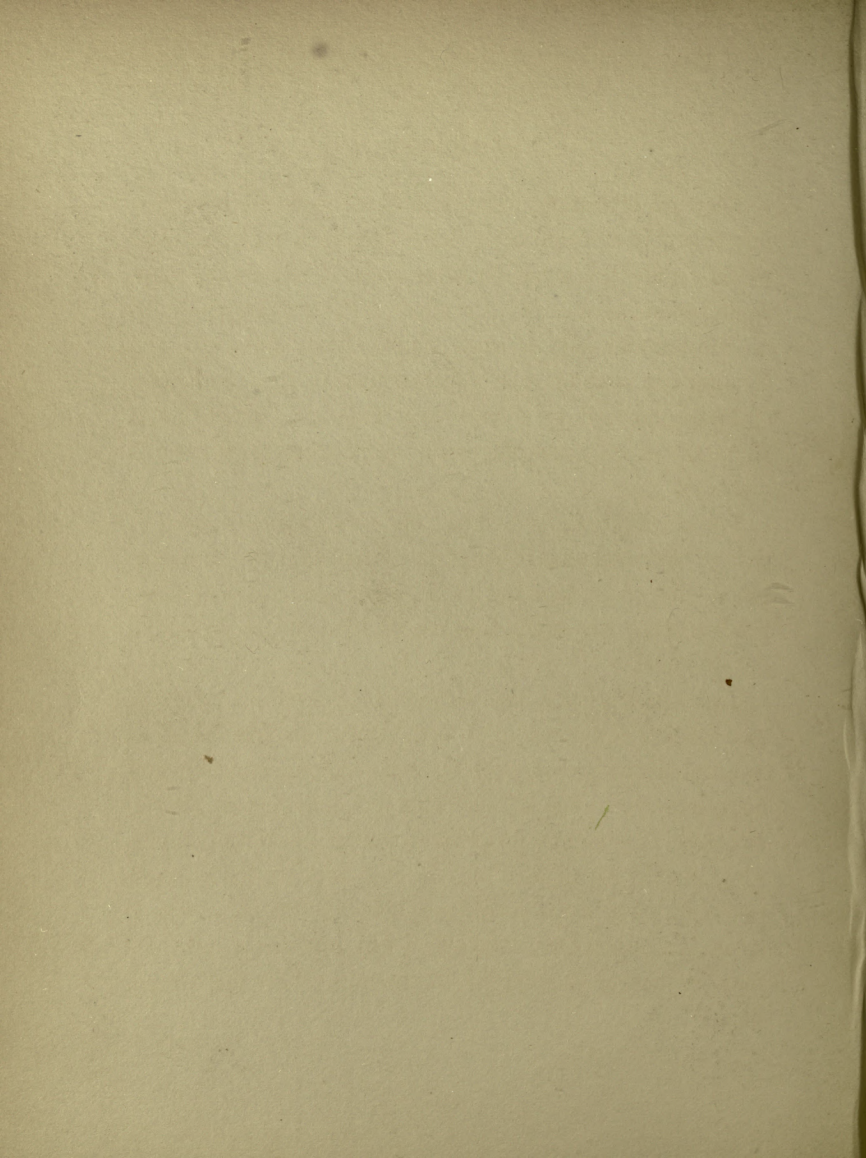
2.

*Asplenium marinum*  
76.

Eitch del et lith.

Reeve & Nichols, imp.





They are of leathery texture, but the veins are nevertheless tolerably evident, each pinna having a midvein, from which venules are given off alternately on either side, there again producing a series of veinlets. The sori are produced on the anterior side of each venule, lying obliquely, and forming two rows on each side the centre; they are oblong or linear, covered by a persistent indusium, which opens along the anterior margin as the spore-cases grow towards maturity.

The chief variation to which this Fern appears subject is that of the elongation of its parts. Sometimes the pinnae are much elongated, tapering to a narrow point; sometimes, besides being narrowed, they are auricled at the base, and deeply lobed.

This species, with the Lanceolate Spleenwort and the Maiden-hair, are exceedingly well adapted for Wardian cases in warm sitting-rooms. All of them enjoy the warmth; and being all evergreens of moderate size, and very elegant in structure, they supply just what is wanted in such situations. They should be planted on elevated rock-work, in sandy peat-soil, lying in the interstices between the fragments of stone; and when once established will grow freely, provided they are not much exposed to the sun, which they do not like.



ASPLENium RUTA-MURARIA, *Linnaeus*.—The Rue-leaved Spleenwort, or Wall Rue.

Very diminutive, and not very attractive, occurring abundantly on old walls, often in such situations little more than an inch high. It grows in tufts, insinuating its wiry roots, as is the case with all the mural species, into the crevices and joints of the masonry, and is not easily removed from such places in a condition suitable for planting. The fronds are numerous, of a glaucous-green, varying between one and six inches long, with a stipes about half the entire length, the leafy part usually triangular in outline, and bipinnate. The pinnæ are alternate, with rhomboidal, or roundish-ovate, or obovate pinnules, sometimes wedge-shaped with the apex abruptly cut off. The more luxuriant fronds are once more divided, so as to become almost tripinnate, the pinnules being deeply pinnatifid, and the lobes of the form of the ordinary pinnules. Occasionally in immature specimens the fronds are only once pinnate, with pinnatifid pinnæ. The upper margins of the pinnules are irregularly toothed.

The veins are rather indistinct, and there is no midvein, but a series of veins arise from the base, becoming branched in the progress towards the apex, the number of ultimate





1. *Reta-meraria* var.  
Fitch del et lith.  
78

2. *A. fontanum*  
69

3. *A. germanicum*  
72  
*Asplenium*

4. *A. viride*  
83

5. *A. trichomanes*  
80  
Reeve & Nichols del.  
80



branches usually corresponding with that of the marginal teeth. Several sori are produced near the centre of the pinna, covered by indusia which open inwardly with a jagged or irregularly sinuated margin.

A very common species, confined to rocks and walls, and occurring throughout Europe and in many parts of North America.

Synonymous with the name we employ, are the following :  
—*Amesium Ruta-muraria*, *Scolopendrium Ruta-muraria*.

ASPLENIUM SEPTENTRIONALE, *Hull*.—The Forked Spleenwort. (Plate XII. fig. 3.)

A rare and diminutive Fern. The habit is tufted, comparatively large masses being sometimes formed; the fronds themselves are very small, from two four inches long, slender, dull green, with a long stipes, which is dark purple at the base. The leafy part—if, indeed, it can here be called leafy—is of a narrow elongate lance-shaped form, split near the end into two or sometimes three alternate divisions, or in the smaller fronds merely toothed; each of these fronds, or divisions of the frond, has its margin cut into two or more sharp-pointed teeth, the points of the larger teeth being very frequently bifid.

The veins are reduced to a minimum; one vein enters



each lobe, or if the frond is not lobed the stipes is continued upwards in the form of a vein; this becomes forked so as to send up one vein to each of the teeth into which the part is divided; and three or four linear sori are produced in a very crowded manner within this small space, so that when from age the sori burst open the indusium, the spore-cases form a confluent mass over the whole under-surface.

The confluent mass of spore-cases arising from the crowded position of the sori, has led some authors to consider this plant an *Acrostichum*, the mark of which is to have the whole under-surface thus covered. Some of the sori being face to face, and almost in juxtaposition, has again led other botanists to think it a *Scolopendrium*, the mark of which is to have the sori confluent in pairs face to face; but if the plant is examined while young, it will be seen that these resemblances are unreal, and that it is really an *Asplenium*. It is thus that it has been called by the names of *Acrostichum septentrionale* and *Scolopendrium septentrionale*; to which *Amesium septentrionale* has to be added as another synonyme.

In cultivation it requires sandy peat-soil, and the shelter of a close frame, or bell-glass.

ASPLENIUM TRICHOMANES, *Linnaeus*. — The Common Spleen-wort. (Plate XIII. fig. 5.)

This is rather a diminutive plant, but, when in a vigorous state, has a very interesting appearance, from the contrast between its black stipes and rachis, and the bright green pinnæ, and from the regularity with which the latter are disposed. It grows in tufts, naturally introducing itself into the joints of old masonry and among the crevices of rocks, and producing numerous small slender fronds, of a linear form, in its most vigorous state nearly a foot long, but generally from three to six inches. They are evergreen, simply pinnate, on a rather short stipes, which is of a purplish-black, the rachis also being of the same dark colour. The pinnæ are dull green, small and numerous, equal-sized, of a roundish-oblong figure, attached to the rachis by a stalk-like projection of their posterior base; the margin is rather entire or crenated. The pinnæ are jointed to the rachis, and when old are readily displaced, so that eventually the black rachis is left denuded among the tuft of fronds.

A distinct midvein passes through each pinna, giving off on each side a series of venules bearing veinlets, the anterior of these producing the linear sorus just within the margin of the pinnæ. The sori, which in the young state are covered by a thin indusium having a somewhat crenu-

lated free margin, very frequently in a later stage become confluent, and cover the whole of the under surface.

A very rare and very curious variety of this species has the pinnæ deeply pinnatifid, with linear notched segments; this is sometimes distinguished by the name of *incisum*.

The ordinary form of the species occurs rather plentifully growing on rocks, old walls, and ruins, and less frequently on hedge-row banks. It is pretty generally distributed throughout the United Kingdom and Ireland; and also occurs throughout Europe, and in each of the other divisions of the globe.

This is one of the species of Ferns which has enjoyed a medicinal reputation, a tea and a syrup prepared from it being a country remedy for coughs and colds.

When once established this plant grows readily either in pots or on rock-work; but its roots being wiry, and generally inserted into the crevices of the walls or rocks on which it grows, it is sometimes found to be difficult to transplant. In general the smaller and younger plants may be removed with greater success than the larger and older ones. The newly transplanted roots should be kept rather close, if possible, for a short time; but after they are established, shade is not so essential to this species as to most



other Ferns, although it grows most vigorously under the influence of shade and shelter. In a Wardian case, for which its size is suitable, it should have the upper and drier parts of the rock-work.

*Asplenium melanocaulon* is another name which has been given to the common Spleenwort.

ASPLENIUM VIRIDE, *Hudson*. — The Green Spleenwort. +  
(Plate XIII. fig. 4.)

This Fern has such a general resemblance to *A. Trichomanes* as to have been mistaken for it by casual observers. It is, however, quite distinct, and is most readily known from *A. Trichomanes* by the colour of its rachis, which is green in the upper part, while in the latter it is black throughout. It is an evergreen tufted species, producing narrow, linear, simply pinnate, bright pale green fronds, ranging from two to eight or ten inches in length, supported by a short stipes, which is dark-coloured at the very base, but otherwise green, the rachis being entirely green. The pinnæ are small, generally roundish-ovate, rather tapered towards the base, and attached to the rachis by the narrowed stalk-like part, the margin being deeply crenated.

The venation is distinct: the midvein sends off alternately a series of venules, which are either simple or forked, bearing

the sori on their anterior side. The sori are oblong, covered at first by membranous indusia, which are soon pushed aside; the free margin is jagged or crenate.

A native of moist, rocky, mountainous districts in England, Scotland, and Wales; occurring, also, though less frequently, in Ireland, and throughout Europe.

It is not difficult to cultivate in pots in a close, damp, cold frame; or on moist, shady rock-work, if covered over by a bell-glass. If exposed, it is apt to suffer from occasional excessive wet, which often does not properly drain away; and also from the dry hot air of our summers. The object of covering it with a glass is to avoid both these casualties, and provided it is not kept too close it will then thrive well. The proper bell-glasses for these half-hardy Ferns are those with a small opening in the crown, which may be closed or not at pleasure, but, in general, are best left open. In pots it should have a gritty, porous soil.

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Genus VII. *ATHYRIUM*, *Roth.*

IN the *Athyrium* we have perhaps the most variable of all our native Ferns; though the varieties it presents, and

which have been from time to time looked upon as affording so many distinct kinds, are now almost universally considered as different phases of one species. Viewed in this light, the species is certainly not a very constant one, which fact seems all the more inappropriate, inasmuch as the species itself is that to which the name of Lady Fern is applied. All the various forms are plants with delicate and beautiful fronds of annual duration, varying in size from tufts of a few inches high, to plummy masses of the height of three or four feet. The texture is thin, and almost transparent, on which account the nature of the venation and of the connection of the parts of fructification may be here very well seen and studied. They serve to connect the *Aspidium*-like and the *Asplenium*-like groups, differing, however, obviously from the former in having the sori elongate instead of round; although from the circumstance that in age the sori here become somewhat curved or reniform, thus approaching the rounded form, this very species, the Lady Fern, has, by many writers of discrimination, been placed in the old genus *Aspidium*. If, however, the fructification is examined while young, immediately before or after the indusium has burst, its true character will readily be seen. We have here an illustration of the inconvenience which arises from the preservation only of



herbarium specimens in which the fructification is quite mature ; for this, without doubt, was the cause of the Lady Fern having been referred to the family of *Aspidium*, with which it has no real affinity. The affinity of the Lady Fern is properly with the *Aspleniums*, and there is less reason to dispute the conclusions of those who actually place it as a species of *Asplenium* ; although, as there is a difference between them, and the genus *Asplenium* is rather a crowded one, it is a convenience to have them separated. The mark by which the *Aspleniums* and their allies are known, in addition to the elongated form of the sorus, is its position on the *side*, not the back, of the veins ; the receptacle being lateral, as it is said. From *Asplenium* itself, the *Athyrium* is known by having its indusium fringed on the free margin with capillary segments, while in *Asplenium* proper the margin of the indusium is without this membranous fringe. There is, as already mentioned, only one indigenous species of *Athyrium*. The *Asplenium fontanum* is sometimes admitted, but we think it does not properly belong to this genus.

The name is derived from the Greek, and comes from *athyros*, opened ; the allusion being to the position assumed by the indusium, which stands out from the surface of the





var. multifidum



frond like an opened door, after the growth of the spore-cases has disrupted its anterior margin, and eventually is quite turned back.

ATHYRIUM FILIX-FEMINA, *Roth.* — The Lady Fern.  
(Plate XI.)

The Lady Fern, on account of the exquisite grace of its habit of growth, the elegance of its form, and the delicacy of its hue, claims precedence over every other British species; and this is more or less true of every one of its variable conditions. The habit of the plant is tufted, the caudex of the larger varieties often with age acquiring some length, and elevating the circlet of fronds on a low, rude pedestal; this stem, however, never acquires more than a few inches in length. In winter, the summit of this stem, whether a tuft seated close to the ground, or elevated a few inches above the surface, is occupied by a mass of incipient fronds, each rolled up separately, and nestling in a bed of chaffy scales. About May these fronds become developed, and from the strong old roots a score or upwards are usually produced; they reach maturity early in the summer, during which time a few additional fronds are generally developed from the centre; and the whole of them are destroyed by the autumn frosts under ordinary circumstances. The form of the fronds

is lanceolate, more or less broad; and they are supported on stipes which are scaly at the base, and usually about a third of the entire length of the fronds. The division of the fronds is what is called bipinnate; the pinnæ are always lanceolate, more or less drawn out at the point, and they are always again pinnate, though sometimes with the bases of the pinnules connected by a narrow leafy wing, but not so much so as to render them merely pinnatifid. The pinnules, however, are more or less lobed or pinnatifid, the lobes being sharply toothed in a varying manner.

From the delicate herbaceous texture of the fronds the venation is very distinct; and is seen to consist, in each pinnule, of a wavy midvein, from which proceed alternate venules, which again produce alternate veinlets, and on the anterior side of this series of veins, at some distance from the margin, is borne an oblong sorus; in the larger and more divided pinnules the veining is more compound, and more than one sorus is produced from each primary venule, which thus becomes a midvein, with branches on a smaller scale. The sori are themselves oblong, a little curved, and they are covered by indusia of the same form. Both the sorus and the indusium, on the development of the spore-cases, become bulged in the centre and contracted at the

ends, appearing more curved than before, and the sorus thus becomes finally roundish in outline, and the indusium apparently almost circular with a lateral notch; in this state it somewhat resembles a *Lastrea*. On one side the indusium is fixed longitudinally to the side of the vein which forms the receptacle; its other margin, the anterior one, or that towards the midvein of the pinnule, becomes free, and is then seen to be fringed, or split into a number of hair-like segments. This description applies to the commoner forms of the Lady Fern, which, however, are very variable in size, according to the situation and circumstances which influence their development, sometimes scarcely exceeding a foot in height, and at other times reaching the height of four or five feet, the latter being the result of growth in a damp, shady situation, the former the consequence of a more exposed and drier locality.

Of the varieties we shall notice only the most striking, and of these *convexum* is botanically the most distinct, and probably should be regarded as a distinct species. It differs from the commoner Lady Ferns in its more lady-like proportions, both its fronds, its pinnæ, and its pinnules being smaller and more slender than in them. The fronds seldom exceed two feet in height, and are often less; they are more



erect, and their form is narrow-lanceolate; the pinnæ are taper-pointed; the pinnules set quite clear of each other, very narrow, that is, linear, with sharp points, the margins bluntly toothed, but rolled under so that very little of the tothing is seen; the sori are very often confluent. It occurs sparingly in boggy places.

The variety *latifolium* of Mr. Babington, which appears to be the *Athyrium latifolium* of Presl, a German writer on Ferns, is probably also a distinct species. This differs from the common forms in the elongate or oblong-lanceolate outline of its fronds, and in the broad, leafy, crowded development of its pinnules, which are somewhat irregularly lobed, as well as deeply toothed at the margin, with the curved sori lying near the sinus of the lobes. This is a strong-growing form. It has been recently found near Keswick, in Cumberland.

The variety *molle* has ovate-lanceolate fronds, growing nearly erect, the lower pair of pinnæ being short and deflexed; it has flat, toothed pinnules, connected at their base by a slender wing to the midrib, and produces its sori distinct. This is a small form, often not more than about a foot in height.

Besides these, there are three varieties of horticultural interest. One called *multifidum*, which has the habit of *con-*

*verum*, but is more vigorous, has the tips of all the pinnæ, as well as of the frond itself, multifid or tasselled, which gives it a very elegant appearance. Another, which we call *crispum*, is a dwarf tufted plant, no larger than a bunch of curled parsley, which it much resembles, its fronds being curiously crisped and tasselled. These two are, strictly speaking, monstrosities, but they have retained their characteristics for many years in cultivation, and are very elegant.

Another curious form we propose to call *marinum*: it was found by Dr. Dickie growing along with *Cystopteris Dickieana*, in a cave near the sea at Aberdeen, and has now for five or six years been cultivated along with other hardy Ferns, and retains its distinct appearance and characteristics. It has small fronds about a foot long, lanceolate, and remarkable for the manner in which they taper from their broad centre, equally towards the base and apex; these fronds, moreover, have a spreading or horizontal mode of growth; their pinnules are oblong and bluntly toothed, and attached closely together, at right angles with the continuously winged rachis of the pinnæ. The sori are very short, often curved in a horse-shoe form, and crowded on the small pinnules.

The common Lady Fern is abundant in warm moist woods

and hedge-rows throughout Great Britain, and especially so in Ireland; it also occurs throughout Europe, and in Asia, Africa, and North America. The monstrous varieties are of Irish origin; though the parsley-like one has also been found in Scotland.

Few of our native Ferns are more easily cultivated than this. A rather boggy soil suits it best, and it loves shade and moisture; indeed, these latter conditions being fulfilled, soil becomes a secondary consideration. The moisture, however, though abundant, should not be stagnant. The Lady Fern is occasionally seen planted in the mouth of a cave or recess by water among shady rock-work; nothing is so lovely as a finely-grown plant of it so situated.

“Supreme in her beauty, beside the full urn,  
In the shade of the rock, stands the tall Lady Fern.”

As a pot plant it requires plenty of room, both for its roots and fronds, and must be liberally watered.

By the older botanists this plant was called *Polypodium Filix-femina*. It was then transferred to *Aspidium*, under the name of *Aspidium Filix-femina*; and subsequently by other botanists it has been called *Asplenium Filix-femina*, which latter name is still given to it by those who do not adopt the genus *Athyrium*.



Genus XIII. BLECHNUM, *Linnaeus*.

It is not quite agreed among botanists, whether the English plant should be considered a member of the genus or family called *Blechnum*, or that which bears the name of *Lomaria*. We think it most nearly related to the former, although in the contraction of its fertile fronds it approaches very near the latter. Among the British species the plant under notice—for there is only one native species of the genus—is known by having its fructification extended longitudinally on the pinnæ, so as to form a linear or continuous sorus on each side the midvein, and about midway between it and the margin. The only other British Fern which has its fructification in extended lines lying parallel with the midrib, is the *Pteris*, or Bracken, in which, however, the sorus is on the margin, and not within the margin and near the midvein, as in *Blechnum*. The *Blechnum* may, however, be at once known from the *Pteris*, by the division of its fronds, which are merely pinnate, while those of *Pteris* are decomposed.

The name *Blechnum* is an adaptation of the Greek *blechnon*, which signifies, a Fern. There is but one native species, *B. Spicant*; and we take the opportunity to state

here, why we prefer this specific name to that of *boreale*, which is now more commonly used. The name of *Blechnum Spicant* was applied to this plant by Roth, Relhan, Withering, Symons, and Hull, before that of *B. boreale* was given to it by Swartz; it has, therefore, unquestionably the right of priority. Besides this, the specific name *Spicant* has been used to distinguish this plant by nearly all the older botanists, though they have held very conflicting views as to the genus to which it belonged, referring it, for example, among others, to *Osmunda*, to *Onoclea*, to *Acrostichum*, and to *Asplenium*. Thus all the evidence is in favour of the name we adopt.

BLECHNUM SPICANT, *Roth.*—The Hard Fern. (Plate XVI. fig. 2.)

The common name of this species is very appropriate, from the rigid harshness of its texture. It is one of the few native kinds which produce two distinct-looking kinds of frond—fertile and barren. The fertile ones have their pinnæ much narrowed, or contracted, as it is called, while the fronds themselves are considerably taller than the barren ones. These fronds grow in large tufts, and being very gracefully disposed, the plant becomes one of the most ornamental of our wild species during the summer season,

when its fronds are in a fresh state. Both kinds of fronds are of a narrow lanceolate form; the barren ones being only deeply pinnatifid, while the fertile ones are pinnate; but the segments in both are long and narrow, like the teeth of a comb. The barren fronds, which are from one-half to two-thirds the height of the fertile ones, assume a spreading or horizontal position, and are attached to the caudex by a very short scaly stipes. The fertile ones, which are situated in the centre of the tufts, are erect, from one to two feet high, the stipes, which is sparingly furnished with long pointed scales, being nearly half the length, and of a dark brown colour.

The veins are not very evident in the fertile fronds, on account of the contraction of the parts, but they resemble those of the barren ones, except in having a longitudinal venule on each side the midvein, forming the receptacle to which the spore-cases are attached. The midvein is prominent, and produces a series of venules on each side, these becoming forked, and extending almost to the margin, terminating in a club-shaped head. In the fertile fronds the veinlets are necessarily shorter, and connected, as already mentioned, by the longitudinal venules which bear the fructification. The spore-cases are thus arranged in



two linear sori, one on each side the midvein; these are distinct while young, but soon become confluent, covering the whole under-surface of the pinnæ. The indusia, by which they are at first covered, burst along that side towards the midrib, and eventually become split across here and there, at points opposite some of the venules.

The Hard Fern is a rather common plant, occurring in heathy and stony places, and preferring localities which are rather damp than otherwise. It is found in various parts of Europe. In cultivation, it is a very suitable plant for damp shady rock-work, and in such situations, planted in peaty soil, it grows freely, and without requiring any special attention.

The principal of its synonyms are—*Lomaria Spicant*, *Blechnum boreale*, *Osmunda Spicant*, *Asplenium Spicant*, *Onoclea Spicant*, *Acrostichum Spicant*, *Struthiopteris Spicant*, and *Osmunda borealis*.

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Genus XVIII. BOTRYCHIUM, *Swartz*.

THIS is called Moonwort, and is a small and very distinct plant, easily known by two circumstances,—first, it has two

fronds, or rather two branches of its frond, the one of which is leafy, the other seedy; and secondly, the pinnæ of the leafy branch are crescent-shaped, with the outer margin jagged. There is no other native plant which has these peculiar features, and hence the Moonwort is a plant very easily recognized when it is met with. It is rather local in its range, but not scarce in the localities where it is found, which are open heaths and pastures, rather dry than otherwise. The spore-cases are collected into branched clusters at the end of the fertile branch; the little branches of the cluster are all turned one way, and the spore-cases themselves are numerous and globular, and somewhat resemble in the aggregate a miniature erect bunch of grapes.

There is a peculiarity in this Fern which also serves to distinguish it, and its near ally the *Ophioglossum*, or Ad-der's-tongue, from all other native species—the venation is straight, not circinate; that is, the fronds, before they are developed, are not rolled up spirally, unrolling as they expand, but in the incipient state the parts are merely folded together by a flat surface. Only one species of *Botrychium* is indigenous.

BOTRYCHIUM LUNARIA, *Swartz*.—The Moonwort. (Plate XVIII. fig. 2.)



This is a very peculiar plant, exceedingly interesting to the student of Ferns, from the differences of structure and development it exhibits as compared with the majority of Ferns. It is an almost stemless plant, furnished with a few coarse brittle fibres, and a bud springing from the permanent point which represents the stem. Within this bud, before the season at which the fronds are developed, they may be found in an embryo condition, perfectly formed, the two branches of the frond placed face to face, the fertile being clasped by the barren one. This new frond springs up annually, and perishes before winter, and in the majority of cases is not very conspicuous. The size varies from three to eight or ten inches in height, the lower half consisting of a smooth, erect, cylindrical, hollow stipes, the base of which is invested by a brown membranous sheath, which had covered it while in the bud.

Above, the frond is separated into two branches, one of which is spreading, pinnate, leafy, lance-shaped; the pinnæ crescent-shaped, or somewhat fan-shaped approaching to lunate, filled with a radiating series of two or three times forked veins, such as occur in *Adiantum*, one vein extending into each of the crenatures into which the margin is divided. The other branch is erect, fertile, compoundly branched,



that is, it is first divided into branches corresponding with the pinnæ, and these again into another series of branches, on which, distinct, but clustered, the globose stalkless spore-cases are produced. The spore-cases are two-valved, and open transversely when ripe; the valves are concave.

Occasionally, though very rarely, two fertile branches are produced, and there is a variety in which the pinnæ are pinnatifid.

This species is widely distributed, but local, occurring in open heaths and pastures, where the soil is peaty, and not very wet. The same plant occurs in other parts of Europe, and also in North America.

The Moonwort is not very easily cultivated. It may, however, be preserved in pots in a cold frame, if transplanted while dormant into rather unctuous peaty soil, and kept from either of the extremes of drought or saturation. The roots should not often be disturbed when once established.

The Moonwort is the *Osmunda Lunaria* of Linnæus.

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Genus IX. CETERACH, *Willdenow.*

THE genus *Ceterach* furnishes only one British species; and this is so different from all others as to be distinctly re-

cognized at a glance. The mark by which it is known is this:—the back of every frond is covered by densely-packed, brown, pointed, chaffy scales. Among these scales, and concealed by them, lie the elongate sori, which are anomalous, in regard to their relationship, in having no indusium. The affinity of *Ceterach* is without doubt with the Asplenium-like Ferns, and this being the case they ought to have an indusium; the Polypody-like and Acrostichum-like Ferns only, among the dorsal groups, wanting this cover to the sori. No indusium, however, exists here, unless it be represented by a kind of membranous ridge, which exists on the receptacles just behind the sori, and is the part which has been called an indusium. The probability is, that it does represent that organ, which is not largely developed in consequence of the presence of so dense a covering of scales, these not only serving the purpose of a cover to the sori, but perhaps, from their crowded position, preventing its proper formation.

The name *Ceterach* is an alteration of the word *Chetherak*, which was applied to this plant by Persian and Arabian medical writers.

CETERACH OFFICINARUM, *Willdenow*.—The Scaly Spleenwort. (Plate I. fig. 1.)





W. Fitch, del. et lith.

*Ceterach officinarum*  
100.

2.

*Polypodium vulgare*  
75

Reeve & Nichols, sculp.

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A downy, evergreen, distinct-looking, and very pretty Fern, growing in tufts. The fronds when fresh are thick and rather fleshy, and from this cause, as well as the densely-packed scaly covering of the under surface, they are perfectly opaque when dry. Their size is variable, according to the circumstances of their growth: they are found from two to six inches in length, rarely exceeding the latter. They grow on a short scaly stipes, and are either pinnatifid, as is commonly the case, or more rarely pinnate, the difference being, that in the latter the fronds are divided rather more deeply than in the former. The upper surface is a deep opaque green, prettily contrasting with the rust-coloured brown of the scales on the under surface, these being just seen projecting from the margin, and still more fully in the exposed under surface of the young partially-developed fronds. The pinnæ or lobes are of an ovate form, and either entire or lobed on the margin.

The opacity of the fronds renders the venation indistinct, and indeed it is only to be made out by examining young fronds, removing the covering of scales, and the outer skin of the frond itself. It is then seen, that from the lower corner the principal vein enters, taking a sinuous course towards the upper side of the apex; it branches alter-

nately, the venules being again branched, and the veinlets anastomosing more or less near the margin. The sori are borne along the sides of the venules in a very irregular manner, the majority of them being directed towards the apex of the pinna; at first the sori are quite concealed by the scales, but the spore-cases ultimately protrude between them, although, being very similar in colour, the latter are never very obvious.

The *Ceterach* is a mural species, occurring on the walls of old buildings and ruins, and in rocky places. It is pretty generally distributed in the United Kingdom, but is considered somewhat rare in Scotland. It occurs also throughout central and southern Europe, and in the north of Africa.

Like other wall Ferns, this is often difficult to establish in cultivation when first transplanted; but when once this is overcome its cultivation is not difficult. It is best grown in a cold frame, potted rather high, among loam mixed with a large proportion of brick-rubbish, and not over-watered. Though generally found in exposed and rather sunny situations, the finest examples we have seen were found in a shaded, moist situation, under trees, where sunshine never visited them.



Among other names, this plant has borne those of *Asplenium Ceterach*, *Scolopendrium Ceterach*, *Grammitis Ceterach*, *Notolepeum Ceterach*, and *Gymnogramma Ceterach*.

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#### Genus VI. CYSTOPTERIS, *Bernhardi*.

THE species of *Cystopteris* are all small, fragile Ferns, yet, notwithstanding, they are very beautiful and very interesting, and furnish some remarkable differences of form. They are much more delicate and herbaceous in their texture than the majority of our native species, and hence are well adapted for the purpose of minute investigation into the nature of their venation and fructification. Their texture alone almost suffices to tell a practised eye their family position, but the tyro needs a more precise characteristic, and this is found in the structure of the scale or indusium which covers the sori. The sori in these plants are round, as in *Lastrea* and *Poly-stichum*, all, equally with *Cystopteris*, once included under the old family name of *Aspidium*; but here, instead of being almost flat and circular, the indusium is inflated or bulged out like a hood, and is attached at the back (towards the base of the pinnule) of the sori by its broad base, covering

the sori while in a young state, but becoming ultimately reflexed at the point, which is more or less jagged or fringed. Hence these plants are called Bladder Ferns. There are three native species, of one of which numerous distinct forms or varieties occur.

The technical name comes from two Greek words, *kystos*, and *ptēris*, which respectively mean bladder, and fern; so that in this case the English appellation is a literal translation of the scientific name.

CYSTOPTERIS ALPINA, *Desvaux*. — The Alpine Bladder-Fern. (Plate X. fig. 2.)

A diminutive but very elegant plant, quite a gem. It has a close tufted stem, producing from its crown numerous bright green fronds, usually four to six inches, but sometimes as much as ten inches high. These grow up in May, and die away in autumn. Their form is lanceolate, the mode of division bipinnate, with the pinnules so deeply pinnatifid as to render them almost tripinnate. The stipes is short, smooth, and scaly at the base. The pinnæ are nearly opposite, with a winged rachis, ovate, divided into bluntly ovate pinnules, these latter being deeply cleft, almost down to their midvein, into short, blunt, linear lobes, which are either entire, or have two or three blunt teeth.

The midvein of the pinnules is nearly straight, with a venule, simple or divided, branching off to each lobe, one branch extending to the point of each marginal tooth. The small roundish sori are rather numerous, but not confluent, borne near the margin, and covered by a concave membranous indusium.

This species, which is cultivated like the other species of *Cystopteris* without difficulty, has been found (formerly in abundance, now, we believe, almost exterminated) on an old wall at Leyton, in Essex. Indeed, its claim to aboriginality is strongly suspected, a small, much-divided form of *Cystopteris fragilis* being supposed to have been mistaken for it. The Scotch and Welsh plants which have been called *Cystopteris alpina* are probably open to this objection, but there is reason to believe the Essex plant to have been genuine; and I have fronds of the true plant, communicated by a Fern cultivator, Mr. Shepherd, of Liverpool, which, he informs me, were gathered in Derbyshire and Yorkshire. It occurs in the alpine parts of southern Europe.

*Cystopteris regia* is another name for this elegant plant, which has also been called *Cyathea regia* and *Cyathea incisa*, *Cystea regia*, *Polypodium alpinum*, *Aspidium regium*, and *Polypodium trifidum*.



CYSTOPTERIS FRAGILIS, *Bernhardi*.—The Brittle Bladder-Fern. (Plate X. fig. 1.)

This is a tufted-growing plant, spreading, if undisturbed under congenial circumstances, into large patches of numerous crowns, each of which throws up a tuft of several fronds, growing from six inches to a foot, sometimes more, in height. The stipes, which is very brittle, dark-coloured, and shining, with a few small scales at the base, is usually rather more than a third of the length of the frond, and generally erect. The form of the frond is lanceolate; it is bipinnate, the pinnæ lanceolate, the pinnules ovate acute, cut more or less deeply on the margin, the lobes furnished with a few pointed teeth. In some of the plants, and usually owing to their vigour, the pinnules are so very deeply cut as to become pinnatifid, almost pinnate, the lobes themselves then resembling the smaller pinnules nearer the apex of the pinnæ and frond.

The venation is very readily seen, owing to the delicate texture of the frond. In the ordinary-sized pinnules there is a somewhat tortuous midvein, which gives off a lateral branch or venule to each of the lobes into which the margin is cut, these venules branching again into two, three, four, or more veinlets, according to the size of the lobes, and each



*C. alpina*  
104

2.

*C. fragilis*  
106





branch generally bearing a sorus at about midway its length. The sori are thus generally numerous, and rather irregularly disposed; and it often occurs that they are so numerous as, when fully grown, to become confluent into a mass of fructification covering the whole under surface of the frond. The number of sori produced, and consequently the sparse or crowded disposition of the fructification, is a matter altogether dependent upon the circumstances of growth, and hence exceedingly liable to vary even in the same plant, and within the same year, as heat or cold, drought or moisture, may preponderate. The sori, which are nearly circular, are covered while young by a concave or hood-shaped indusium, which is attached by its broad base on one side beneath the sori, and has its apex ultimately free; this part usually becomes torn or split into narrow segments, and the whole soon becomes pushed back or cast off by the growing spore-cases.

There are many forms or varieties of this species. Two of them, called *cynapifolia* and *anthriscifolia*, do not seem to need any distinct description. Another, called *angustata*, is rather larger, generally, than the typical form, but differs more by having the points of its pinnæ and the apex of the frond itself drawn out considerably into very narrow points than in any other circumstance readily pointed out.

Another distinct variety, called *dentata*, is generally smaller, and almost always blunter in the form of its parts; this grows from six to eight inches high, and has ovate-lanceolate pinnæ, with ovate, obtuse, pointless pinnules, which are again divided on the margin into a series of short blunt notches or teeth; the venation is more simple, and the fructification is more marginal, than in any of the preceding forms.

The most distinct of all the varieties, however, is one which we have called *Dickieana*, after Dr. Dickie, its discoverer; it has a more compact frond than any of the preceding, grows from four to six inches in height, in outline almost ovate, terminating in a point, the pinnæ ovate-lanceolate, overlapping each other, the pinnules decurrent, broad, obtuse, with a few shallow, marginal notches; the texture is very delicate and herbaceous, and the fructification marginal. It is of a deep green, and has often a degree of translucency which makes it very interesting; it is a constant variety under cultivation.

The usual forms of this species occur abundantly in moist mountainous districts, and also on walls, but generally in moist rocky situations throughout the United Kingdom, Ireland excepted, where it is comparatively rare. The same species is very widely dispersed in various parts of the world.

The varieties are more rare, and we know of only one locality, a sea-cave, near Aberdeen, in which *Dickieana* has been found. *Cystopteris fragilis* may be said to have rather a preference to limestone. Under cultivation it is one of the most manageable of the smaller sorts, growing freely on rock-work or in pots. Its fronds are produced very early in spring, are often renewed during summer, and continue to grow up in succession until the frost cuts them off. Being so very delicate in texture, the first frosts which have access to them do this.

The names of *Cyathea fragilis*, *C. cynapifolia*, *C. anthriscifolia*, *C. dentata*; *Cystea fragilis*, *C. angustata*, *C. dentata*; *Polypodium fragile*, *P. cynapifolium*, *P. anthriscifolium*, *P. dentatum*, *P. rheticum*; *Aspidium fragile*, *A. dentatum*, and *A. rheticum* have been given by various authors to the different forms of this variable species.

CYSTOPTERIS MONTANA, *Link.*—The Mountain Bladder-Fern. (Plate XIV. fig. 2.)

This is the rarest of our native Ferns, and hence is a plant of great interest. It is a small species, growing with a slender creeping scaly stem, by the division of which it is increased. The fronds, which grow up from this caudex, are from four to six or eight inches high, triangular in outline,



from the great development of the lowest pair of pinnæ; and they are remarkable for the comparative length of the slender stipes, which is about twice as long as the leafy portion. The fronds are tripinnate in the lower part, and bipinnate upwards, the pinnæ spreading, and standing opposite in pairs, the lowest pair considerably larger than the next above, and unequally developed, the inferior side being very much larger than the superior; this disproportion is not maintained to the same extent in the upper portions of the frond. The lower pinnæ, on the inferior side, are first divided into ovate or lanceolate pinnules, and these are again cut into a second series of pinnules, of an ovate or oblong form, these ultimate pinnules being coarsely and irregularly notched or toothed; on the upper side, the pinnules correspond with the secondary pinnules of the lower side. The inferior pinnules of the next pair of pinnæ also correspond in size, outline, and subdivision with the secondary pinnules of the lower pinnæ; and above this the parts become gradually smaller and less divided up to the apex of the frond.

The whole texture of the fronds is delicate and herbaceous, as in the more common species, and hence the veins show very distinctly. In the ultimate pinnules the central

vein is somewhat flexuous, and gives off alternate lateral veins, one of which is directed toward the sinus or marginal indentation between two serratures. The sori have the usual roundish form common in this genus, and, being numerous, they become very conspicuous when full-grown; but though crowded they do not appear often to become confluent. These sori are covered, in the young state, by a blunt, concave, jagged-edged indusium.

This rare species occurs wild in the United Kingdom only, as far as is known, among the Breadalbane mountains of Scotland, on one of which, Ben Lawers, it was originally found by Mr. Wilson, in company with Sir W. J. Hooker and Professor Graham; this was in August 1836. Subsequently, in 1841, Messrs. Gourlie and Adamson again met with it, on the "mountains between Glen Dochart and Glen Lochey." Mr. Gourlie again, we believe, as well as Dr. Arnott and Mr. Borrer, met with it in 1850. In the European Alps this Fern is met with, most abundantly northwards; and it also occurs on the Rocky Mountains of the New World, occurring for the most part in its wild haunts, on rough stony ground in sub-alpine regions, but sometimes also in woods.

The synonyms of this species are *Polypodium montanum*, *Aspidium montanum*, and *Cyathea montana*.

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Genus XV. HYMENOPHYLLUM, *Smith.*

THE British *Hymenophyllums*, or Filmy Ferns, are small moss-like plants, with pellucid fronds, distinguished, along with *Trichomanes*, by having the fructifications at the edge, not on the back of the fronds; and known from that genus by having the involucre which surround the clusters of spore-cases, two-valved instead of urn-shaped or entire. So far as our native species go, these distinctions serve, but they become puzzling in some exotic forms, which it is not easy to refer to their proper genus. They are the smallest of all our native Ferns, and, being somewhat rare, or at least local in their distribution, they have always been regarded with much interest. Two native species are recognized, much like each other in general aspect, and distinguished by one or two rather minute technicalities, which, however, are sufficiently obvious to those who have learned how to look for them. These peculiarities will be presently explained.

The name *Hymenophyllum* is compounded from the two Greek words *hymen* and *phyllon*, which mean a membrane, and a leaf; and is applied to those plants with much propriety, from the membranous texture of their fronds.



HYMENOPHYLLUM TUNBRIDGENSE, *Smith.*—The Tunbridge Filmy Fern. (Plate XV. fig. 2.) 169

This is so named in consequence of its having been found in the neighbourhood of Tunbridge, though occurring also in many other parts of the United Kingdom. It grows in the form of matted tufts, on the surface of damp rocks, in the sheltered, humid localities which are congenial to it; the black, wire-like, creeping stems being entangled together, and interlaced with the mosses and allied plants which are often found in its company. The fronds are very short, from one to three or four inches long, membranous and semitransparent, almost erect, and of a dull brownish-green even when fresh, which gives them in some measure the appearance of being dead. These fronds are lanceolate, or somewhat ovate; they are pinnate, with the pinnae pinnatifid or bipinnatifid, and having their branches mostly produced on the upper side, though sometimes alternately on each side the pinna.

The fronds are virtually, as is the case with the *Trichomanes*, a branched series of rigid veins, winged throughout, except on the lower part of the short stipes, by a narrow, membranous, leafy margin. The clusters of spore-cases are here produced around the axis of a vein, which is continued

beyond the margin of the fronds, this vein or receptacle being enclosed within an urn-shaped involucre, consisting of two nearly orbicular compressed valves, which are spinosely serrate on the upper margin.

It is a species widely distributed throughout the United Kingdom, and is found in many other parts of the world. It requires the same conditions for its successful cultivation as does the *Trichomanes*, to which genus the reader is referred.

It is the *Trichomanes tunbridgense* of Linnæus. 189

HYMENOPHYLLUM UNILATERALE, *Willdenow*. — Wilson's Filmy Fern. (Plate XV. fig. 3.)

This plant is by English botanists most commonly called *Hymenophyllum Wilsoni*, but there is no ground to doubt that it is identical with *H. unilaterale*, a name published by Willdenow long before that of *Wilsoni*; we have, therefore, adopted Willdenow's name on the ground of priority. The species is a small moss-like plant, with numerous creeping filiform stems, generally growing in dense tufts, and producing a crowded mass of semi-drooping, brown-green, half-transparent fronds, averaging three or four inches in height. The fronds are of a linear-lanceolate form, and pinnate; the rachis is usually somewhat curved,

and the pinnæ are convex above, all turned one way, so that the fronds become more or less unilateral; the outline of the pinnæ is wedge-shaped, cut in a digitate-pinnatifid way, the lobes being linear-obtuse with a spinulose-serrate margin.

The rigid veins, branching from the principal rachis, which is very slightly winged in the upper part, become themselves branched so as to produce one venule to each segment; or, in other words, the veins are twice branched, and throughout their entire length after they leave the primary rachis they are furnished with a narrow membranous leafy wing or border, the primary rachis itself being almost quite without any such border. The clusters of spore-cases are collected around the free ends of veins, which usually occupy the place of the lowest anterior segment, and are included within an urceolate involucre, which is divided into two oblong convex inflected valves, which are quite entire at the flattened edges where they meet.

This Filmy Fern seems equally diffused with its allied species, and they are often found in company. This, however, seems to be the more common of the two in some parts of Scotland, and in Ireland. It is widely distributed in other parts of the world.



Genus IV. LASTREA, *Presl.*

ONE group of the Ferns were formerly called *Aspidiums*, or Shield-Ferns. This group, so far as English species are concerned, is now divided into three, bearing the names of *Lastrea*, *Polystichum*, and *Cystopteris*. The *Lastreas* are known among these by having the indusium, or seed-cover, round in outline with a lateral notch, thus becoming kidney-shaped; they are attached to the frond by the notched part. This group includes some of the largest and most common of our native species, and nearly all of them are remarkable for their elegance. Several of them retain their fronds through the winter in sheltered situations, but they are not strictly evergreen, and in exposed situations are always bare during winter.

Of the *Lastreas* eight British species are usually recognized, but the number varies according to the value put upon certain differences in the plants, by different authors.

The name *Lastrea* commemorates a zealous botanist and microscopical observer, M. Delastre of Chatelleraut.

*LASTREA CRISTATA*, *Presl.*—The Crested Fern. (Plate VI. fig. 2.)

This is the simplest of the British forms of a group of

species intimately related to each other, and which are sometimes in the aggregate called Crested Ferns; the latter name is, however, more usually applied only to *L. cristata*, of which we have used it as the equivalent. The group alluded to consists of *L. cristata*, *uliginosa*, *spinulosa*, *dilatata* in its many forms, and *feniseeii* or *recurva*, plants which form a closely connected series, so close, indeed, that some very eminent botanists consider them as all belonging to two species only, *cristata* and *dilatata*, the other forms being considered as mere varieties. This view of the subject is, we believe, almost exclusively confined to those whose lot it has been to study the Ferns in a general way; and the magnitude of the subject in such a form necessarily leads to generalizations, and the acknowledgment only of such differences as are the most obvious. It is, in fact, often inconvenient for the general botanist to search after or take cognizance of very minute differences. Those, on the other hand, who study a smaller series, confined to certain geographical limits—our own country, for example—being unperplexed by the magnitude of their subject, as necessarily search for and find differences of another kind, less obvious at the first glance, but to be found if looked for; and these, when proved to be constant and unvarying, are relied on as proper

marks of distinction. As this book is intended for the use of those who are only likely—at least whilst they require its aid—to study the smaller group, we shall endeavour to show them how to understand the minuter differences which serve to separate this series of Crested Ferns into several recognizable species; and for this purpose shall first enumerate the leading features of distinction:—

*Lastrea cristata* grows with very erect, narrow, oblong fronds, whose deltoid pinnæ are not quite divided down to the central rib, and the lobes into which they are separated are attached by the whole width of their base, and are oblong with a rounded apex. The stipes is sparingly furnished with broad, obtuse, membranous, whole-coloured scales.

*Lastrea uliginosa* has two or three sorts of fronds; one set, the earlier ones, having much resemblance to those of the preceding, the other sets producing fructification, being bipinnate at the bases of the pinnæ, the fronds narrow-oblong, the lobes tapering to a point, and the scales of the stipes broad, blunt, and whole-coloured. This connects *cristata* with *spinulosa*.

*Lastrea spinulosa* grows erect, has narrow, lance-shaped, bipinnate fronds, and whole-coloured blunt scales to the stipes. It is broader and more divided than the foregoing.



*Lastrea dilatata* grows more spreading, has still broader or ovate lance-shaped fronds, and the stipes is clothed with lance-shaped scales, which are darker-coloured in the centre than at the margins. This is a very variable plant.

*Lastrea fœnisecii* grows spreading, and has fronds smaller than the last; they are triangular, bipinnate, and the segments have their edge curved back so as to present a hollow surface to the eye; the scales of the stem are narrow, pointed, and jagged.

*Lastrea cristata* itself, the Crested Fern, is not very elegant, but of considerable interest on account of its rarity. It forms a thick stem or root-stock, from which a limited number of narrow, very upright fronds arise early in May, and attain the average height of a couple of feet. The fronds are destroyed in autumn by the frosts. Their outline is linear-oblong, that is, from a narrow width at the base of the leafy portion—say two and a half or three inches in the case of fronds of the average height—the margins run nearly parallel almost to the apex, where they narrow into a blunt point; they are supported by a stipes which rather exceeds a third the length of the entire frond, is proportionally stout, and maintains this proportion upwards through the leafy portion of the frond; on the lower part it

has a few scales of a blunt, ovate form, a membranous texture, and an uniform light brown colour. The pinnæ are elongate-triangular in their outline, the broadest occurring at the base of the frond, the upper ones becoming gradually narrower, but all of the same general form, namely, widest at the base, gradually tapering to the apex. They are not, in the usual form of the species, divided quite down to their midrib, so as to become, in technical terms, pinnate, but each segment is attached by the entire width of its base, and connected by a narrow extension of its base with the segment next behind it; all the segments having their apices inclined rather towards the apex of the pinna. The lobes of the pinnæ are themselves oblong, with a rounded apex, and a crenately toothed margin.

The midvein of the lobes takes a tortuous course, and gives off lateral branches which divide into several secondary branches, one only of which, that nearest the apex of the lobe, bears a sorus. The fructification is confined to the upper portion of the frond, and often remarkably so; less frequently it extends downwards to the pair of pinnæ next above the basal ones. The spots of spore-cases are covered by a kidney-shaped scale or indusium, having an entire margin, and become mature in August and September.

This species occurs only on boggy heaths, and that in but few places in Britain, confined, we believe, to the counties of Nottinghamshire, Cheshire, Norfolk, and Suffolk. It is easily cultivated, either in a pot, or planted in a damp, somewhat shady situation, and preferring a peaty soil.

A Fern which has, within the last year or two, attracted some attention, and which Mr. Newman has called *Lastrea uliginosa*, we notice here as a variety of *Lastrea cristata*. It is exactly intermediate in its general appearance and characters between that species and *Lastrea spinulosa*, and would perhaps, at first sight, be rather considered a state of the latter than of the former. In the mode in which its young fronds are rolled up, and in the arrangement of its veins, it however agrees best with *cristata*, and for this reason we prefer to consider it a variety of that species approaching *spinulosa*, with which latter it agrees most closely in the form of its pinnules.

This Fern forms a stout crown or root-stock, having a tendency to multiply by lateral off-shoots. From the crown the fronds spring up in a circle, and grow nearly erect to the height of from two to three feet; these bear the fructification. Other fronds, however, are produced, which are barren, and these do not grow so erect, nor put on the same



form as the fertile ones. The barren fronds closely resemble those of *cristata*, while the fertile ones have much the appearance of those of *spinulosa*, only they are narrower, and have narrow pinnæ. The outline of these latter is narrow lance-shaped, drawn out at the apex, the pinnæ having a narrow tapering form, and the pinnules being oblong-pointed, with rather deep, serrated, marginal notches, the serratures terminating in a fine, somewhat hardened point.

The midvein of the pinnules is somewhat tortuous, giving off branched lateral veins, the anterior of which bears a sorus, so that these latter are placed in two regular lines lengthwise on each pinna; the sori are produced from the base to the apex of the frond. The barren fronds are broader, usually shorter, less erect, and their pinnules are of a broader, blunter form, and more closely placed, than those which are fertile. The stipes has ovate, pale-coloured scales, rather sparingly distributed, and most numerous at the lower part; and the sori are covered by even-margined, kidney-shaped scales or indusia.

This plant is found on boggy heaths, generally in company with *cristata* and *spinulosa*; it has, however, we are informed, been detected where *cristata* is unknown to exist. As far as we yet know, it is comparatively rare.

Sometimes after the growth of the first set of fertile fronds others will spring up which are also fertile, but have the appearance described above as peculiar to the barren ones. These fronds are undistinguishable from cultivated fronds of *L. cristata*, and furnish another reason for considering *uliginosa* as a state of that species.

LASTREA DILATATA, *Presl.*—The Broad Prickly-toothed, or Crested Fern. (Plate IX. fig. 2.)

This is one of the most compound of our native species. It forms a large tufted stock or stem, and has broad arched fronds, which average about a couple of feet in height, though it is sometimes met with smaller, and often, when luxuriant, reaches a height of five feet. They are always more or less drooping or curved, and never grow erect as those of *cristata*, *uliginosa*, and *spinulosa* do. The general outline is ovate-lanceolate, though in this, one of the most variable of Ferns, the form varies considerably, becoming sometimes narrow elongate lanceolate on the one hand, and short broad almost triangular on the other. It is not improbable that among these various forms, the most distinct of which are sometimes regarded as varieties, two or three distinct species may be associated under the name of *dilatata*. We shall describe the more usual form.

The fronds are ovate, lance-shaped in outline, on a stipes of moderate length, which stipes is much thickened at the base, and densely clothed with entire, lance-shaped, pointed scales, of a very dark brown colour in the centre, but nearly transparent at the margins. They are bipinnate, with elongate-triangular or tapering pinnæ, placed nearly opposite, and having more or less of obliquity from the larger development of the inferior side. The pinnæ are pinnate, and the pinnules near their base often so deeply divided as to be again almost pinnate; the rest are pinnatifid, or in the upper parts merely deeply toothed, but the margins, whether deeply or shallowly lobed, are set with teeth which end in short spinous points.

The veining is very similar to the more compound parts of the allied species *spinulosa*; and the fructification is produced in great abundance, the sori being ranged in two lines crosswise the pinnæ on the larger lobes, or lengthwise on the less divided parts; so that they have apparently a less regular distribution than occurs in *spinulosa*. The sori are covered by kidney-shaped scales or indusia, which are fringed around the margin with projecting glandular bodies.

One of the varieties of this Fern has the fronds shorter,



almost triangular in outline, and remarkably convex ; it has, moreover, usually a dark green colour, often with a brownish tinge. It is found in more exposed places than the normal form, and is not uncommon.

Another is met with on the hills of the north of England ; and this, which it has been proposed to call *Lastrea collina*, is probably a distinct species. The form of its fronds is ovate, drawn out to a long narrow point, and the pinnules, which are obtusely ovate and have a broad attachment at the base, have the serratures on their margin less spinulose than in the common form. It was first noticed by the Rev. Mr. Pindar in Westmoreland.

Mr. Newman proposes to separate a form of this plant, which differs in having its surface covered with glands, and in the scales of the stipes being broader, under the name of *Lastrea glandulosa*. Of its distinctness as a species we are, as yet, unprepared to decide. It appears, however, to connect *L. spinulosa* with *dilatata*, and is apparently the same as had been previously named *L. maculata* by Dr. Deakin.

This species, though found in drier places than its nearly *spinulosa*, is nevertheless partial to moisture, being found in damp, shady hedge-banks and woodlands. It is hardy, and easily cultivated.

LASTREA FILIX-MAS, *Presl.*—The Male Fern. (Plate VIII.)

The Male Fern is so called from its robust appearance in contrast with the more delicate, though similar, Lady Fern or *Filix-fœmina*. It is one of the species which grow up annually, the fronds being destroyed by the frosts of winter, unless the situation be very sheltered, when the old fronds often remain green until the young ones are produced in spring. It is a robust-growing plant, producing its fronds in a tuft around a central crown, and when vigorous and perfectly developed is a very striking object, though its ornamental qualities are often unheeded, we suppose, on account of its commonness. Surely, however, it is not wise that objects imbued with that mystery—vitality, and being intrinsically graceful and beautiful, should be despised because a beneficent Creator has scattered them about our path with a lavish hand; they ought the rather, one would think, to lead us to admire and adore!

The stipes of this Fern is densely scaly. The fronds average about a couple of feet in height, and are of a broad lance-shaped figure, and what is called bipinnate, though less decidedly so than occurs in some other species, for here it is those pinnules only which are nearest to the main rachis

var. *cristata*  
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*Lastrea Filix-mas*

126





which are separate from each other. The pinnæ are narrow and tapering, with a few of the lowest pinnules distinct, the rest united at the base; these pinnules are of an obtusely oblong form, and serrated on the margin. The fructification of this plant is generally very copious, and is usually confined to the lower half of the pinnules, where it is crowded.

This is one of the best species to study with the view of understanding the fructification of Ferns, for here the indusium, a very important organ, is seen to be remarkably prominent in fronds which have about reached their full development. In that state the indusium is as yet closed over the clusters of spore-cases, and will be seen to consist of a lead-coloured, tumid, kidney-shaped, conspicuous scale, which, at the proper time, becomes elevated on one side to allow the dispersion of the spores. This may readily be seen by closely watching the progress of the fronds after they have reached the stage just adverted to; or if they are gathered in that state for preservation in the herbarium they are almost certain to burst, more or less, in the process of drying, before they yield up their vitality. These covers are at first little white scales.

The veins of this species are also readily seen, and each pinnule will be found to have a flexuous midvein, with

alternate venules, which are simple or forked, or sometimes three-branched in different parts of the pinnule, the three-branched ones, if present, occurring at the base, and the unbranched ones at the apex. The sori are borne on that branch which is towards the apex of the pinnule, and jointly they form a line at a little distance from and on each side of the midvein.

One variety of this Fern we have called *Lastrea Filix-mas incisa* in the 'Hand-book of British Ferns,' and it has been named *Lastrea erosa*, and *L. Filix-mas erosa*, by others, in the belief of its being identical with a plant called *Aspidium erosum* by an old author named Schkuhr—which we think it is not. However this may be, it is a magnificent variety, much larger than the commoner form of the plant, attaining four or five feet in height, and possessing the same general features as that which has been already described, but larger in every part, and having the pinnules more elongated and tapering towards the point, more deeply cut along the margin, the branches of the venules more numerous, and the sori produced over a larger proportion of the surface of the pinnule, in fact, usually almost reaching to its apex.

Another variety or starved form of this common plant



has the pinnules changed into small rounded lobes, and the fructification reduced to a single row of spore-cases on each side the rib of the pinnæ. This has been called *Lastrea Filix-mas abbreviata*.

A third curious form of the Male Fern has the points of the frond and of the pinnæ dilated into a fringe or tassel—a very curious transformation, which, it is curious to remark, occurs only, as far as we know, among British species, in this—the Male Fern—and in the Lady Fern.

The Male Fern is found abundantly all over the country in shady situations : the larger variety is met with here and there in similar places ; the other varieties are rare. It is one of the most easy to cultivate, and is very suitable for cool, shady rock-work, or for shady walks in woody scenery.

Like its allies, this species has been called *Polypodium*, or *Aspidium*, or *Polystichum*, besides *Lastrea*, but the specific name *Filix-mas* seems to have been always preserved to it.

LASTREA FŒNISECII, *Watson*.—The Triangular Prickly-toothed, or Recurved Fern.

This is a moderate-sized and very elegant plant, of drooping habit, and possessing a crisped appearance from the recurving of the margins of all the segments of fronds. It grows from one to two feet high, and from its tufted stem

produces a spreading circle of triangular fronds, the stipes of which, of about the same length as the leafy part, are thickly clothed with small, narrow, jagged, pale-coloured scales. The fronds are bipinnate, the lowest pair of pinnæ always longer and larger than the rest, and the pinnules on the inferior side of the pinnæ larger than those on the superior side. The pinnules are of an oblong-ovate figure, and the lowest of them often divided again into a series of oblong lobes, for the most part decurrent, but sometimes slightly stalked; the margin is cut into short spinous-pointed teeth.

The veins of the pinnules are alternately branched from a sinuous midvein, and these venules give off two or three alternate veinlets, the lowest anterior one being the sorus. The exact ramification of the veins depends upon the degree in which the pinnules or lobes are divided. The fructification is distributed over the whole under surface, the sori being pretty evenly distributed in two lines along each pinnule or lobe; they are covered by small reniform indusia, which have their margin uneven, and fringed with small, round, stalkless glands. The whole frond is covered with similar glandular bodies.

This Fern, which is most abundant in Ireland and the western parts of England, occurs in damp, sheltered woods,







W. Fitch del et lith.

Rever & Johnson Imp.

*Saxifraga crepitans*

131

and on shady banks and rocks. It is of an elegant drooping aspect, and is cultivated without difficulty. It is the more valuable as a pot plant from its moderate size and its ever-green character.

This species is the *Lastrea recurva* of some writers, and the *Nephrodium feniseeii* of others.

LASTREA OREOPTERIS, *Presl.*—The Mountain Fern; sometimes called Heath Fern. (Plate VII.)

This is a very elegant species, growing shuttle-cock fashion around the central crown of the stem, to the height of from two to three feet; and it is, moreover, so fragrant when drawn through the hand as to be recognized from its kindred by this circumstance alone. The fragrance is due to the presence of numerous minute glandular bodies on the lower surface, which, being bruised when the plant is handled, give out strongly that peculiar odour which many Ferns possess—a sort of earthy, starchy smell, by no means disagreeable. The fronds are annual, springing up about May, and enduring through the summer: they are erect, lance-shaped in their outline, pinnately divided; and there is this about them remarkable, that the stipes is unusually short, the leafy part being continued nearly down to the ground, and the lower pinnæ are so short that the frond tapers



downwards as much or perhaps more than it does towards the point. The pinnæ generally stand opposite, and are narrow, tapering, and pinnatifidly divided, bearing their fructification almost close to the margins of the segments, and generally very abundantly.

In this species the divisions of the fronds are flat, not revolute, as in *L. Thelypteris*, which most resembles it. Each segment or lobe has a distinct and slightly sinuous midvein, which is alternately branched, the branches simple or divided, and bearing the spore-cases in clusters near their extremity.

This plant loves shade, and is found most luxuriant in woods, occurring also on mountainous heaths. It may be considered a common plant in England, Wales, and Scotland; but in Ireland is much more rare. It is an effective plant for shady rock-work, and, when established, grows freely.

Besides the name we have here adopted, this Fern has borne the following titles:—*Aspidium Oreopteris*, *Polypodium Oreopteris*, *Polypodium montanum*, *Polystichum montanum*.

LASTREA RIGIDA, *Presl.*—The Rigid Fern. (Plate IX. fig. 1.)

This very elegant Fern is of moderate size, growing nearly





2.  
*L. dilatata*  
Fitch del et lith.  
123

1.  
*L. rigida*  
Reeve & Nichols imp.  
132

*Lastrea*



upright, and from one to two feet in height. It is perhaps the most elegantly divided member of its family, the pinnules being all doubly and very evenly toothed. The fronds issue from the crown of a comparatively thick stem, and are annual in their duration, greeting the approach of summer with the fresh green of youth, and shrinking dead and shrivelled from the icy touch of winter. There are two forms of frond—the one narrowly triangular, the other lanceolate, and they are bipinnate, with narrow tapering pinnæ, and oblong blunt pinnules, which are cut into broad rounded segments, again notched into a varying number of pointed but not spinulose teeth. The stipes is densely scaly.

The veining is very similar to that of the large variety of *Filix-mas*; the pinnules having a flexuous midvein, with alternate venules again pinnately branched. The clusters of spore-cases are borne on the lowest anterior branch of each venule, that is, on the lowest veinlet on the side towards the apex of the pinnule, and they are covered by a kidney-shaped indusium, which does not soon fall away. Over the fronds are scattered numerous small sessile glands, which, when slightly bruised, give out a faint and not unpleasant odour.

This Fern seems confined to the limestone districts of the



north of England, growing at considerable elevations. It was first found at Ingleborough, in Yorkshire, and has been since met with on the limestone ranges of Westmoreland and Lancashire. In cultivation it is usually a free-growing plant, more lax than in the wild state, and one of the most elegant of the larger kinds.

*LASTREA SPINULOSA*, *Presl.* — The Narrow Prickly-toothed, or Crested Fern.

This is a rather erect-growing kind, with a stout stem or root-stock, which becomes branched, so that several crowns are generally found together forming one mass. The crowns may readily be separated, and in this way the species may be increased with much facility. The fronds grow from one or three feet high, and are bipinnate, the pinnæ having an obliquely tapering form from the inferior pinnules being larger than the superior ones: this is most obvious at the base of the fronds, where the pinnæ are broader than they are towards the apex. The pinnules are of an oblong form, somewhat narrowing upwards, the margins deeply incised, the lobes being serrated, and the teeth somewhat spinulose; —this description, it should be remembered, applies to the lowest pinnules on the lowest pinnæ; those towards the apex of each pinna, as well as the basal ones of the pinnæ

nearer the apex of the frond, become gradually less and less compound, so that, although the margins are still furnished with spinulose teeth, they gradually lose the deep lobes which are found on the lowest pinnæ. In all the more compound Ferns there is a similar difference of form according to the position of the pinnules, and in all such cases it is usual to describe only those which are the most complete, namely, such as are situated at the base of a few of the lowermost pinnæ. The stipes of *Lastrea spinulosa* is rather sparingly furnished with semitransparent scales of a broad or bluntly ovate form, in which particular it agrees with *cristata* and *uliginosa*, but differs from *dilatata* and *feniseeii*.

The venation of all these allied species is so very similar, that it is unnecessary to repeat the description in detail. In the less divided pinnules there is a midrib, less tortuous than in *cristata*, which gives off branched venules, the lower anterior veinlets proceeding from which bear the sori, about midway between the rib and the margin; the clusters of spore-cases thus forming an even double row on each pinnule. When the pinnule is more divided, the same arrangement of the sori occurs on the lobes, the branches of the lateral veins or venules being then more numerous. The sori are covered by kidney-shaped indusia, having the margin entire.

Marshy places and damp woods are the situations in which this Fern is met with; and in such places it does not appear to be uncommon. It is very easily cultivated on damp banks or rock-work, and, when grown in pots, requires to be plentifully supplied with water.

*LASTREA THELYPTERIS*, *Presl.*—The Marsh Fern. (Plate VI. fig. 1.)

This is called the Marsh Fern from its growing in marshes and boggy situations. It has a slender, extensively creeping stem, which is usually smooth and of a dark colour, producing matted fibrous roots. The annual fronds are produced about May, and later, and perish in the autumn: they usually grow about a foot high, the fertile ones taller; sometimes, when the plant is very vigorous, they reach the height of three feet. Their texture is delicate, their colour pale green, their outline lanceolate, their mode of division pinnate, the pinnæ mostly opposite, a short distance apart, and pinnatifidly divided into numerous crowded, entire, rounded lobes; the lobes in the fertile fronds appear narrower and more pointed than those of the barren, on account of their margin being revolutely bent under.

The venation of the lobes of this Fern consists of a distinct, somewhat tortuous midvein, from which alternate





2.  
*L. cristata*  
 116

W. Fitch del et lith.

*Lastrea*

1.  
*L. thelypteris*  
 136

Reeve & Nichols, imp.



venules branch out, these being usually forked, and both branches bearing a sorus half-way between the margin and the midvein. The sori, which are thus pretty numerous, often become confluent, and are partially concealed by the bent-back margin. The indusium, or cover of the spore-cases, is in this species small and thin, and is soon thrown off, and lost.

The Marsh Fern has a wide geographical range, and in England and Wales occurs in numerous localities; in Scotland and Ireland it is rather uncommon.

Not a very attractive species for cultivation. It has been severally referred, under the individual name of *Thelypteris*, to the families of *Aspidium*, *Polypodium*, *Acrostichum*, and *Polystichum*, by various botanical writers.

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Genus XVII. OPHIOGLOSSUM, *Linnaeus*.

THIS is very nearly related to the Moonwort, though at first sight having a very different aspect. The points in which it agrees, are, that the parts are folded up straight in the incipient state, and the fronds are two-branched, one branch being leafy, the other fertile. *Ophioglossum* differs from



*Botrychium*, most obviously, in its parts being all simple, while those of *Botrychium* are compound. Its habit of growth is precisely the same, but the fructification is very different, consisting of a distichous spike of imbedded spore-cases. There is but one native species.

The name *Ophioglossum* literally means Adder's-tongue, which is the English name borne by this plant. It is derived from the Greek *ophios*, a serpent, and *glossa*, a tongue; and is applied in consequence of the resemblance of the fertile fronds to the tongue of a serpent.

OPHIOGLOSSUM VULGATUM, *Linnaeus*. — The Common Adder's-tongue. (Plate XVIII. fig. 3.)

A small stemless plant, producing a few coarse brittle roots from a central crown which represents the stem, and which annually produces a bud from which the new frond arises. The young fronds are produced about May, and perish by the end of the summer. They grow from three inches to ten or twelve inches in height, with a smooth, round, hollow, succulent stipes of variable length. In the upper part this becomes divided into two branches, the one branch leafy, entire, smooth, ovate-obtuse, traversed by irregularly anastomosing veins, forming elongated meshes.

The fertile branch is erect, contracted, about half its

length being soriferous, forming a linear slightly tapering spike, which consists of two lines of crowded spore-cases imbedded in the substance of the spike, and occupying its two opposite sides. The spore-cases are, therefore, considered as being produced on the margins of a contracted frond. When mature, the margin splits across at intervals corresponding with the centre of each spore-case, so that eventually the spike resembles a double row of gaping spherical cavities.

The Adder's-tongue is very abundant in the localities where it is found, which are damp meadows and pastures, on a loamy soil. It is generally distributed over England, but is less abundant in Wales, and the other parts of the United Kingdom. The species is a common European plant, and is found in North America as well as in Africa.

There is no difficulty in cultivating the Adder's-tongue, whether in pots, or among an out-door collection of Ferns; the essentials are a stiff loamy soil, and the constant presence of water enough to prevent drought.

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Genus XVI. OSMUNDA, *Linnaeus*.

THE *Osmunda* is called the Royal Fern, and well it deserves

the regal honours, for it is the most majestic of our indigenous Ferns. It is known by its large size, by having its fronds entirely leafy in the lower part, and entirely fertile at the top. In other words, the pinnæ or branches at the apex of the fronds are changed from the ordinary leafy form, into dense masses of spore-cases, arranged in the aggregate in the same way as the leafy pinnules would have been. This mode of bearing the fructification renders it so strikingly obvious at first sight, and gives the plant an aspect so entirely different from that of those in which the fructification is more or less concealed by its position on the under surface, that the *Osmunda*, though classified as one of the Cryptogamous or flowerless plants, is often anomalously called the Flowering Fern. In truth, the contracted chocolate-coloured apex looks not unlike a dense panicle of small brown flowers crowning the tall straight stem, whose lower pinnæ have much the appearance of broad green leaves. There is but one native species.

The name of the genus has given rise to some speculation as to its derivation, and the question is still open. Some derive it from the Saxon *mund*, which they say signifies strength. Others consider the word expressive of domestic peace, and derive it from the Saxon *os*, house, and *mund*,



peace. Others, again, have thought it commemorative, as the following legendary passage bears evidence. The point involved, however, we must leave antiquarians and philologists to settle.

At Loch Tyne dwelt the waterman old Osmund. Fairest among maidens was the daughter of Osmund the waterman. Her light brown hair and glowing cheek told of her Saxon origin, and her light steps bounded over the green turf like a young fawn in his native glades. Often, in the stillness of a summer's even, did the mother and her fair-haired child sit beside the lake, to watch the dripping and the flashing of the father's oars, as he skimmed right merrily towards them over the deep blue waters. Sounds, as of hasty steps, were heard one day, and presently a company of fugitives told with breathless haste that the cruel Danes were making way towards the ferry. Osmund heard them with fear. Suddenly the shouts of furious men came remotely on the ear. The fugitives rushed on; and Osmund stood for a moment, when snatching up his oars he rowed his trembling wife and fair child to a small island covered with the great Osmund Royal, and assisting them to land, enjoined them to lie down beneath the tall Ferns. Scarcely had the ferryman returned to his cottage, than a

company of Danes rushed in; but they hurt him not, for they knew he could do them service. During the day and night did Osmund row backwards and forwards across the river, ferrying troops of those fierce men; and when the last company was put on shore, you might have seen Osmund kneeling beside the river's bank, and returning heartfelt thanks to heaven for the preservation of his wife and child. Often in after years did Osmund speak of that day's peril; and his fair child, grown up to womanhood, called the tall Fern by her father's name.

*Page 205* + OSMUNDA REGALIS, *Linnaeus*.—The Osmund Royal, or Flowering Fern. (Plate XIX. fig. 2.)

This plant has a very stately aspect, growing to the average height of three or four feet, but sometimes found eight or ten feet high. It has what is called a tufted habit of growth, and its stem by degrees acquires height, so that in very old and luxuriant plants there is a trunk formed of from a foot to two feet high. From the crown of this trunk (whether that is seated close to the ground, or whether it is elevated) grow the fronds, which are seldom less than two feet high in very weak and starved plants; more usually from three to four feet, and forming a mass of a couple of yards across; or sometimes, as upon the margins of the

Irish lakes, eight, ten, or twelve feet high, noble and majestic almost beyond conception. In the lovely lake scenery of Killarney this plant is very prominent; and we need not be surprised at the rapturous descriptions which have been given of its arching fronds, dipping in the crystal lakes, and sheltering, with its broad green pinnæ, the numerous aquatic birds which seek its canopy from the prying eyes of pleasure-hunting tourists. When young the fronds have generally a reddish stipes, and a glaucous surface, which at a later period becomes lost. These fronds are annual, growing up in spring, and perishing in the autumn. The form of the mature fronds is lanceolate; they are bipinnate, the pinnæ lanceolate or ovate-lanceolate, with pinnules of an oblong-ovate form, somewhat auricled at the base especially on the posterior side, bluntish at the apex, and saw-edged along the margin. Some fronds are entirely barren, and these differ from the fertile ones only in having the leafy pinnules continued all the way to the apex, instead of having the apex contracted, and bearing the spore-cases. It is not always, however, that the spore-cases when present are produced at the apex of the frond; abnormal developments are not uncommon, and in these cases any portion of the pinnules may be seen converted



into spore-cases—sometimes a few pinnæ at the middle of the frond, while the apex is leafy, sometimes the base of a pinna, while its apex retains the leafy form, sometimes the base of a pinnule here and there, just its apex too, being broad and leafy; but the usual condition is to find a few of the shortened pinnæ, which form the apex of the frond, contracted and soriferous throughout.

The venation, as seen in the barren fronds, consists of a prominent midvein, bearing once or twice forked venules proceeding to the margin in direct lines. In the fertile parts of the frond, only the midrib of the pinnules is fully developed, and the spore-cases are attached to a small portion of the venules which becomes developed just to serve as a receptacle. The spore-cases are subglobose, shortly stalked, reticulated, and two-valved, opening vertically.

The Osmund Royal is a widely-distributed plant, occurring in favourable localities, that is, marshy and boggy situations, throughout the United Kingdom, and, as already mentioned, extremely abundant and luxuriant in some parts of Ireland. It is common throughout Europe, and occurs in the United States of America.

This plant is especially suited, in cultivation, to occupy the base of rock-work abutting upon a piece of water, where its

roots may be placed within the reach of the water. For the margins of ponds or lakes, or for any other damp localities, it is also well adapted; and in such situations only does it acquire anything like its natural vigour. It should have peat earth for its roots. The best way to establish it is, to procure strong vigorous patches from localities where it abounds, and these, if removed carefully any time before growth commences—or even after it is considerably advanced—will succeed perfectly. This course is far more satisfactory than to make use of weaker plants in the hope of their eventually gaining the requisite vigour to produce the effect desired.

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Genus I. POLYPODIUM, *Linnaeus*.

THE Polypodies, which botanists call by the Latin name of *Polypodium*, are known from all the other British Ferns, by their having the spore-cases arranged in little round patches here and there on the back of the frond, these patches not being at any time, or at any stage of their development, covered by the membranous film which, it has been explained, is called an indusium; hence they are said to be naked, or non-indusiate. This family includes

four distinct kinds, with some variations of the common sort; some of these have the fronds persistent, and so become evergreen, while in others they last but from spring to autumn.

The Polypodies derive their name *Polypodium*, which literally means, many-footed, from the branching of their creeping stems, the tubercular protuberances on which, in the earlier stages of development, have some supposed resemblance to those on the feelers of Polypes.

POLYPODIUM CALCAREUM, *Smith.*—The Limestone Polypody. (Plate III. fig. 1.)

This Fern is known from *P. Dryopteris*—to which it is so nearly related that some botanists do not consider it distinct—by having its fronds less decidedly, though somewhat three-branched, and by having its surface covered with small stalked glands, which give a mealy appearance to every part of the fronds. To us these two plants appear quite distinct, for, in addition to the points of difference already referred to, the fronds of this are of a dull deep green, more rigid, and without the marked deflexure of the rachis so obvious in its ally; and the young fronds, instead of being rolled up in three little balls, have their pinnae all rolled up separately. The glandular surface of the whole frond is





W. Fitch del et lith.

2.  
*Woodsia ilvensis*  
181.

*Polypodium  
Calcaneum*  
146

Rose & Nichols, imp.



very readily seen with a pocket-lens,—a necessary aid, by the bye, to the study of Ferns.

The fronds grow from six inches to a foot in height, nearly triangular, with the base shorter than the sides, the stipes about equalling the leafy portion in length. They are partially three-branched, but the lateral branches are much smaller than the central one, and attached to the stipes by a more slender rachis. The lower branches are pinnate, with pinnatifid pinnæ; the upper branch pinnate, with its lower pinnæ again pinnate, and the upper ones pinnatifid, as also is the apex of the frond and of the lower branches. The pinnules or lobes have a distinct midvein, with simple or slightly branched venules, near the termination of which, in a marginal series, the sori are produced.

This is one of the few Ferns which are found in calcareous or chalky soils. It is rare, and local in its distribution, being, we believe, almost confined to rocky limestone districts, and occurring chiefly in the northern and western parts of the island. In cultivation it does not require so much moisture and shade as most other Ferns, but a limestone soil is not at all essential to its well-being.

The names of *Polypodium Robertianum* and of *Lastrea Robertiana* have been given to this species; and the former



of these seems to have the precedence on the ground of priority, but it has not as yet been adopted in this country.

POLYPODIUM DRYOPTERIS, *Linnaeus*.—The Tender Three-branched Polypody, sometimes called the Oak Fern. (Plate II. fig. 1.)

This is at once known among the Polypodies by having its quite smooth fronds divided into three branches; and when the fronds are but partially developed this latter characteristic is available, for the three branches are rolled up separately, and the fronds in the stage alluded to resemble three little balls set on short slender wires, and supported by one which is longer and stouter. It is, however, altogether a slender and delicate plant, its height being commonly not more than six inches, often less, and sometimes more, its colour a pale bright green, and its texture fragile. Hence it is at once destroyed by frost, and soon becomes rusty and withered by exposure to heat and drought. When growing in a cool, shady situation, however, it continues fresh and cheerful-looking from April, when it usually starts into growth, onwards until it is affected by autumnal cold. In pots, in Wardian cases, or on sheltered, shady rock-work, it is alike desirable for cultivation.

The fronds of this delicate little Fern grow from a slender

*Polypodium*



*P. Dryopteris*  
148

*P. Phegopteris*  
2. 150

1.

*Polypodium*





creeping stem, which often forms densely matted tufts. They are quite smooth, and of a bright light green colour, supported by stipes which are usually about twice as long as the leafy part, and are slender, brittle, and dark-coloured. The outline is almost pentagonal, the frond being divided into three branches, each of which is of a triangular form. One peculiarity about this species, which is in a slight degree shared by its near ally, *P. calcareum*, is the deflexion of the rachis at the point where the lateral branches of the frond take their rise, but this feature is greatly more obvious in *P. Dryopteris*. The fronds are divided thus:—each branch is pinnate at the base, and pinnatifid towards its point; the pinnæ are also pinnate at their base, then pinnatifid, becoming acute and nearly entire at the point; the pinnules and ultimate lobes are oblong and obtuse. The pair of pinnules at the base of each pinna, close to the principal rachis, are placed so that when the pinnæ are exactly opposite they stand in the form of a cross; the two towards the apex of the branch being smaller than the opposite pair, and more nearly parallel with the rachis.

The pinnules or lobes have a rather tortuous midvein, from which the venules branch out alternately, being, in those of moderate size, simple, with a sorus near their ex-

tremity, and in those which are larger and more compound, branched, with a sorus on the lower branch. The fructification is very unequally produced in different seasons and localities, being sometimes crowded, and at other times very sparingly scattered over the fronds.

*P. Dryopteris* is not an uncommon species, but it occurs only in mountainous situations and the drier parts of damp woods : in England mostly in the north ; in Scotland distributed pretty generally ; very rare in Ireland.

This species has been called *Polystichum Dryopteris* and *Lastrea Dryopteris*.

POLYPODIUM PHEGOPTERIS, *Linnaeus*. The Beech Polypody, sometimes called Mountain Fern. (Plate II. fig. 2.)

This is a somewhat fragile plant, enduring no longer than till autumn, or the appearance of the first frosts. It grows wild in moist mountainous situations and in damp woods, often common enough where present, but rather limited in its range, occurring, however, in England to the southward, westward, and northward ; pretty generally distributed in Scotland ; but rarely met with in Ireland. It has a slender but extensively creeping and slightly scaly stem, producing black fibrous roots, and, about May, throwing up delicate hairy pale green fronds, which, when full grown, measure

from six inches to a foot in height. The stipes, which is fleshy and very brittle, is generally twice as long as the leafy part of the frond; near its base are a few small almost colourless scales. The fronds are triangular, extended into a long narrow point. In the lower part they are pinnate; but this distinction of the parts is seldom carried beyond the two lowest pairs of branches, those of the upper portions of the frond being connected at the base, in what is technically called a pinnatifid manner: hence this Fern is said to be subpinnate, which, in this case, means partially pinnate, or pinnate at the very base only. The pinnæ have a narrow and acutely lance-shaped outline, and are deeply pinnatifid; they usually stand opposite each other in pairs, the lowest pair being directed downwards, towards the root, and set on at a short distance from the rest. The united base of the pairs of the other pinnæ, when they stand exactly opposite each other, exhibits a cruciform figure more or less strikingly obvious; and by this mark, in conjunction with the subpinnate mode of division, this species may be known from the other British Poly-podies. The veins in the lobes of the pinnæ are pinnate; that is to say, there is a slender midvein, from which alternate venules mostly unbranched extend to the margin;



those near the base of the lobes bearing each one small circular sorus near their extremity—the fructification thus becoming almost marginal.

This is a very delicate and graceful Fern for pot-culture or for a Wardian case, and requires plenty of percolating moisture. On the damp, shady sides of sheltered artificial rock-work, in the open air, it grows with tolerable vigour.

*Polystichum Phegopteris* and *Lastrea Phegopteris* are names which have been proposed for the Beech Fern.

POLYPODIUM VULGARE, *Linnaeus*.—The Common Polypody. (Plate I. fig. 2.)

This is an evergreen Fern, growing abundantly on pollard trunks, mossy banks, moist rocks and walls, and old thatched roofs; and pretty generally distributed over the United Kingdom. When sheltered the fronds are of a lively green, and it may be then recognized by the comparatively large circular patches of golden spore-cases; indeed, it may generally be known by this feature alone, no other native sort having the fructification at all similar in appearance. It grows with a creeping stem as thick as one's finger, which is covered over with pale brown chaffy taper-pointed scales. From its upper side spring the fronds, and from its lower side chiefly the branching fibrous

roots by which it clings to its support. The fronds, if exposed to frost, perish; but if at all sheltered they remain green during winter, and until after young ones have been produced, which happens generally towards the end of May. The stipes or stalk of the full-grown fronds is usually nearly equal in length to the leafy portion; the entire frond measuring from six to eighteen inches in length. The frond itself, that is, the leafy part, is lance-shaped in outline, but cut in from the margin along both sides nearly as far as the midrib or rachis, and thus becomes what is called pinnatifid. The portions into which it is divided are called the lobes, or segments, or divisions of the frond; and in this case, they are usually oblong in form, generally rounded at the end, but sometimes tapering to a blunt point, and occasionally notched along the margin.

Each lobe has a slightly tortuous midvein, producing alternate lateral veins (venules), which generally have about four veinlets or little veins disposed alternately; it is the lowest of these veinlets, on the sides towards the apex of the frond, which produces the sorus when it is present; the rest, which are barren, terminate in club-shaped apices, which are very conspicuously seen when a fresh frond is held up between the eye and a strong light. Most of the

fronds of this kind of Fern produce fructification, which, however, is usually confined to the upper half of the fronds, and has generally become mature by the end of September.

The most important variety is the Welsh Polypody, called *Polypodium cambricum* by Linnæus. In this the lobes of the frond are broader, and, instead of being simple, are deeply and irregularly lobed a second time, the segments being rather sharply toothed. This form, which is certainly only a variety of the common Polypody, is almost always found without fructification. Under slight shelter, where its fronds are persistent, it is one of the most beautiful of what are called hardy Ferns.

Other varieties which have been proposed are—*bifidum*, in which the lobes are more or less regularly two-cleft at the apex; *serratum*, in which they are deeply saw-edged; and *acutum*, in which they are drawn out to a long narrow point. The forms, however, are not constant, and are hence of but small importance.

The species and its varieties grow freely under cultivation, either planted in pots, or on rock-work in a shady situation.

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Genus V. POLYSTICHUM, *Roth.*

THE *Polystichums* form a small and very distinct group of evergreen Ferns, some forms of which rank among the most beautiful of our native species. They once formed part of the genus *Aspidium*, the token of admission to which, was the presence of round seed-patches covered by a scale. From the allied genus *Lastrea*, the *Polystichums* are known by their having the scale-like cover of the sori circular, without a lateral notch, its attachment being by a little stalk in the centre: this form is called peltate. To a practised eye they are also known by a more rigid texture, and by having altogether a more spiny appearance than even the spinulose species of *Lastrea*; but these means of recognition the novice can turn to but little account. The alpine form of the genus is strictly evergreen, and the others acquire this character when in a sheltered situation, but if they are much exposed, the fronds will be killed by a sharp frost. In general, however, they retain their fronds without much disfigurement from frost, quite through the autumnal quarter, and often far into winter. The British species of *Polystichum* are three in number.

The name *Polystichum* is compounded of two Greek

words—*poly*, and *stichos*, signifying *many*, and *order*; and it is applied to these plants in allusion to the numerous regular lines of sori, which are seen distributed over the fronds.

POLYSTICHUM ACULEATUM, *Roth.*—The Common Prickly Fern.

This is a species almost evergreen in a sheltered situation, and one of those which are well suited by boldness of character for the decoration of rocky scenery. It is a stout plant, having the fronds a couple of feet long, and springing from a stout tufted stem or crown, whence they grow up in a circle, about the month of April, and take a somewhat erect position. Their form is lanceolate, in the most perfect state of the species broadly lanceolate, but in a variety presently to be referred to, very narrowly lanceolate. The texture is harsh and rigid, the upper surface dark green and shining, and the short stipes densely enveloped in rust-coloured membranous pointed scales. The fronds are bipinnate, with alternate pinnæ, these pinnæ being again more or less perfectly divided into a series of pinnules, which are either decurrent, that is, insensibly merging in the substance of the rachis which supports them, or else, are tapered to a wedge-shaped base, and attached to the rachis by the cuneate point. The general form of these pinnules is some-

what crescent-shaped, for they have, as is universal in the British forms at least of this genus, the upper base extended into a small auricle, or enlarged lobe, and the lower base as it were abscised; while the apex is tapered off to an acute point, and the margin is serrated, with spiny teeth.

The veins are alternately branched, and do not join together or anastomose, but extend free to the margin; and the fructification, which is generally abundant, and often crowded, is ranged in a line on each side the midrib of the pinnules, and also on the larger pinnules on each side the midvein of the basal lobes or auricles. The indusium is circular, and attached by a little depression or stalk in its centre.

A variety called *lobatum*, and considered a distinct species by some botanists, differs chiefly in the narrow outline of the frond, the pinnules of which are much more decidedly decurrent; indeed, every possible variation in the consolidation of the pinnules is to be met with, between the ordinary bipinnate form of *Polystichum aculeatum*, and a simply pinnate form of the species, which, from its resemblance to *P. Lonchitis*, has been called *lonchitidioides*. This latter form, however, owing its origin to the peculiar circumstances of growth only, cannot properly be recognized as a variety,



but the intermediate state, which is the most common of these abnormal forms, is at least sufficiently different to be considered distinct.

This common and free-growing Fern is found in hedge-banks, and similar situations; and being abundant, easily cultivated, nearly evergreen, and withal possessing considerable elegance of growth, has much to recommend its admission to a prominent position in the Fern garden.

This plant is often, even now, referred to the genus *Aspidium*, and was formerly included under that of *Polypodium*.

POLYSTICHUM ANGULARE, *Presl.* — The Angular-lobed Prickly Fern. (Plate V. fig. 2.)

A strong-growing, tufted-stemmed species, sometimes forming large masses. The fronds are lanceolate, from two to four or five feet high, persistent through ordinary winters, and in sheltered situations retaining their verdure unimpaired until the new fronds are produced. It is one of the most graceful of all the native species. The stipes, which varies from a third to a fourth of the length of the entire frond, is very shaggy, with reddish chaffy scales, which scales, though of smaller size, are continued throughout the upper parts of the frond. The fronds are bipinnate, with numerous tapering, distinct pinnæ, having their pinnules flat, some-

what crescent-shaped, as already explained, often bluntish at the apex, but sometimes acute, always with spinulose marginal serratures, and sometimes, in a few of the lower pinnules, with deep lobes, so that the pinnules become pinnatifid. The pinnules are tapered to a broad-angled base, the lines of which usually exceed a right angle, and they are attached to the rachis of the pinna by a short, distinct, slender stalk, which does not form a line with either margin.

The pinnules have branched free veins; and the sori are generally ranged in a row on each side the midrib, and are covered by a peltate scale or indusium.

A form sufficiently distinct to be regarded as a variety is that to which allusion has been made, as having its basal pinnules deeply lobed; this we call *sub-tripinnatum*. It does not differ in any other particular, but, being rather more lax than the other forms, is the most elegant of them all. There are many other slight variations, some with narrow acute pinnules, some with blunt rounded pinnules, others with the pinnules deeply serrated, and some very conspicuously spinulose, but these differences probably do not point to any permanently distinctive characters. We find the sub-tripinnate form constant in a cultivated state.

This is a not uncommon Fern, growing in hedge-banks

and in lowland woods, preferring, as do most if not all the larger Ferns, the presence of plenty of free (not stagnant) water. As a cultivated plant, either for pots or rock-work, it is most desirable, and acquiring, as it does, considerable size, it may be made to produce some striking effects in ornamental scenery.

Like its congeners, this was formerly, and now is by some, considered to be an *Aspidium*.

POLYSTICHUM LONCHITIS, *Roth.*—The Holly Fern. (Plate IV. fig. 2.)

This is a rigid and prickly-looking species, whence comes the English name. It has a scaly tufted stem, from the crown terminating which, the young fronds are produced early in each spring; these fronds remain fresh and vigorous until after those of the succeeding year are developed, so that the species is truly evergreen in its habit of growth. The size of the fronds is very variable; sometimes they are not more than six inches long, and cultivated plants do not often much exceed this stature. In damp and but slightly elevated situations it becomes more luxuriant, the fronds sometimes attaining a foot and a half in length, and then having a vigour and robustness of aspect never acquired, as far as we know, in cultivation, at least in England. The



climate of Ireland seems more congenial to it, and we understand it is there cultivated with facility. The fronds are narrow in outline, their figure being linear-lanceolate; they are once pinnate, the pinnæ being short, crowded, and somewhat crescent-shaped, the upper side at the base having an ear-shaped projection, the lower side being, as it were, cut away. The margin is set with spinous teeth.

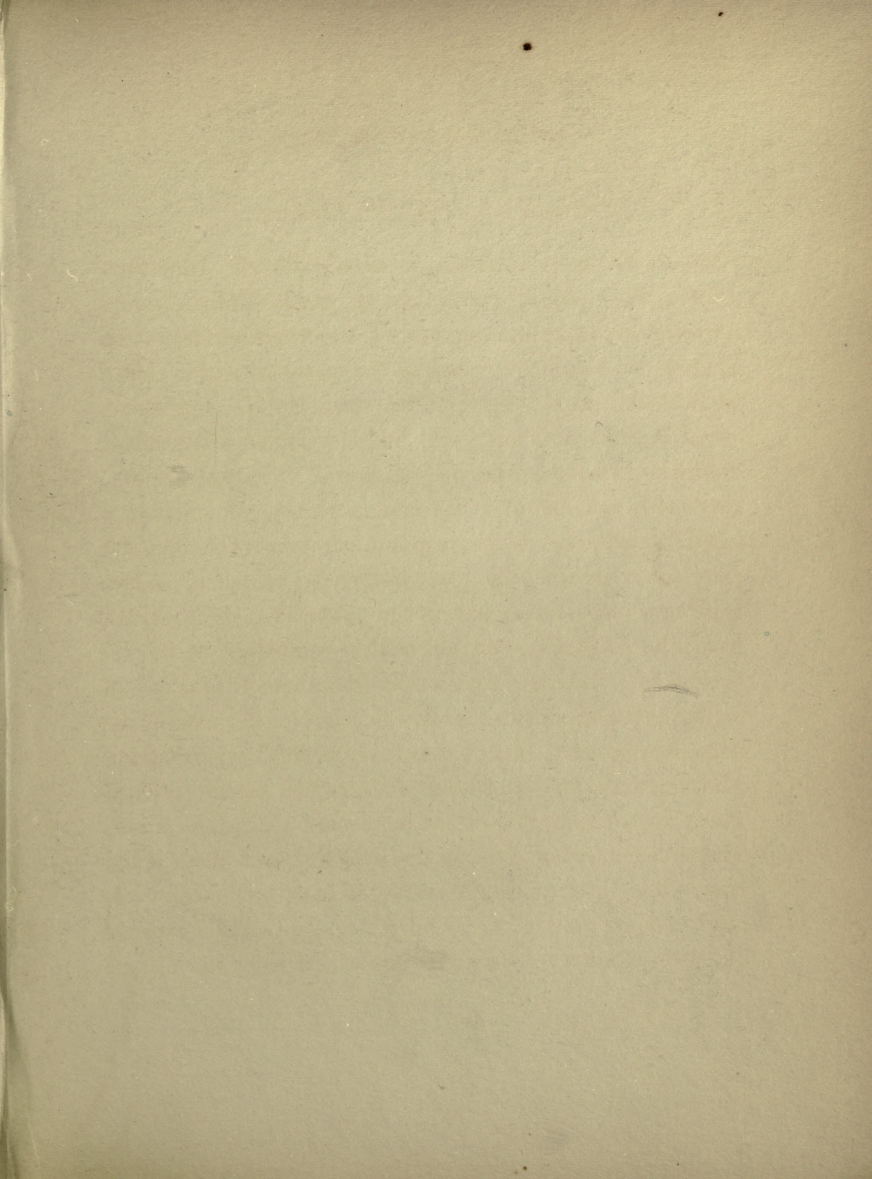
The veins are twice branched, the branches extending to the margin without joining with others. The clusters of spore-cases form a line parallel with, and on each side of the midrib, and are covered each by a membranous circular scale, which is attached by a short central stalk.

A true rock-Fern, occurring on the bleak mountains of Scotland and in the milder climate of Ireland, as well as rarely in the north of England and in Wales. It is a very distinct, and, when vigorous, a not inelegant species, but exceedingly difficult of cultivation, and seldom seen thriving under artificial treatment.

The Holly Fern has been at different times called *Aspidium Lonchitis* and *Polypodium Lonchitis*.

Genus XI. PTERIS, *Linnaeus*.

*Pteris* is the most common of all our Ferns. It is that which occurs almost everywhere in woods and in sandy wastes, often appropriating to itself the whole surface of the ground, but seeming to possess the peculiarity of avoiding chalky soil. It is a very variable plant in its appearance, owing to differences in its size and development dependent on the circumstances in which it grows. Sometimes in dry, very sandy soil, the plant becomes a pigmy, not reaching a foot in height, and being merely bipinnate. The opposite extreme occurs when the plant is growing on a damp hedge-bank in a warm, shady lane, where it attains eight or ten feet in height, and is proportionately compound in its development. Its more usual size is from three to four feet in height. Under circumstances which favour the most luxuriant development, this common and usually vulgar-looking plant combines the most noble and graceful aspect, perhaps, which is borne by any of our indigenous species, its fronds scrambling up among the bushes which sustain them at the base, while their graceful feathery-looking tops form, overhead, a living arch of the tenderest green. The *Pteris*, or Bracken, is known among the native Ferns by having the







Fitch del et lith.

*Pilularia globulifera*

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*Pteris aquilina* var. *integririma*

Rever & Dinkels 1897

edges of all the little divisions of its fronds furnished with a line of spore-cases. No other of our native species has the fructification arranged in continuous lines except this and the *Blechnum*; and the *Pteris* may be readily known from that by the lines being in it confined to the margin, leaving the centre unoccupied, while in *Blechnum* the margin is unoccupied by the sori.

*Pteris* is a Greek name for a Fern, and is derived from the word *pteron*, which signifies a feather; and, of course, is here applied in reference to the graceful feather-like aspect which the fronds of Ferns generally possess. When the plant is luxuriant this name is quite as applicable to the Bracken as to any other known Fern. This consideration is perhaps enough to justify the application to this species, by the older writers, of the name of Female Fern, which scarcely seems appropriate to the commoner uncouth-looking form which the plant more usually bears.

PTERIS AQUILINA, *Linnæus*.—The Common Brakes, or Bracken. (Plate XVII. fig. 1.)

This Fern has a creeping caudex, and one that creeps very extensively too, just beneath the surface of the soil, though in some cases descending to a great depth perpendicularly; it is recorded by Mr. Newman that he has found

the stems thus penetrating to a depth of fifteen feet. This caudex is thickish, black-looking, and succulent, containing a good deal of starch. From it are produced, at intervals, the annual fronds, which generally make their appearance about the latter end of May, when there is little risk of frosts, for the least frost would destroy them, and, indeed, it is not uncommon for the earlier growth to be destroyed in exposed places by the very slight frosts which occur at that season of the year. The fronds themselves have been variously described, and often erroneously, for they are not unfrequently said to be three-branched, a form which really occurs in one of the smaller Polypodies (*P. Dryopteris*). Now, they are not properly three-branched, and except when very much starved and stunted, do not approach that form very nearly. They are, in reality, bipinnate, or when very luxuriant tripinnate, the pinnæ standing opposite in pairs, each pair in succession becoming fully developed, while the main rachis is extending upwards, and the next pair is beginning to unfold. The mature fronds are thus truly bi- or tri-pinnate, with the pairs of pinnæ standing opposite. When the fronds are much diminished in size by the sterility of the soil which sustains them, they become almost triangular, and then have somewhat the appearance of a three-



branched frond, the development of the lower pair of branches not leaving the plant energy enough to carry up its rachis, and produce the other pairs of pinnæ which it would normally possess. That this is the true habit of the species is still more clearly exhibited when it attains its greatest luxuriance, for the full-grown fronds then consist merely of a series of pairs of branches from the bottom to the top. The unrolled young fronds are very curious objects, and the watching of their development will be found full of interest.

The stipes is downy while young, and furnished with sharp angles when mature, which, if it be incautiously pulled, will wound the hand severely. The part under ground is black, like the creeping stem itself, and is spindle-shaped just at the base, where it permanently retains the downy or velvety surface which was present in the upper portions while young.

Average specimens of the fronds are tripinnate, that is, they produce a certain number of pairs of branch-like pinnæ, which branches are bipinnate. We must confine our further description to one of these branches, selected from the lower part of the frond, where they are more perfectly developed than in the upper parts—such a branch, in fact, as is

represented in Plate XVII. The general form is ovate, a little elongated; that of its pinnæ (the secondary pinnæ) narrow lanceolate. These latter are placed rather closely together, and are again divided into a series of pinnules. Two forms will be met with, one apparently equally common with the other: in one the pinnules are undivided, and attached to the rachis by their base without the intervention of any stalk, and these bear a line of spore-cases along each margin; in the other the pinnules are larger, more elongated, and deeply pinnatifid or sinuate, the margins of these lobes bearing the lines of spore-cases. The apices of the primary and secondary pinnæ, and of the pinnatifid pinnules, become less and less divided, until at last the extreme points form an entire lobe, more or less elongated.

In its venation there is some variety, dependent on the differences of structure and development which we have already pointed out. We shall be most intelligible by explaining the form represented in Plate XVII., which shows the least divided form of the plant. Each pinnule, as is there shown, has a distinct midvein, producing alternate lateral venules, which become twice forked, and extend to the margin, where they meet a longitudinal marginal vein which forms the receptacle. The indusium consists of a

bleached, membranous, fringed expansion of the upper skin or epidermis of the fronds, which reflexes so as to cover the spore-cases, but there is here another membrane which lies beneath the spore-cases, and is no doubt a similar expansion of the skin of the under surface.

It has been already remarked that there are two forms of this plant commonly met with. These are so very dissimilar that we have elsewhere\* proposed to distinguish them as varieties, applying to the pinnatifid form the name *vera*, and to the more entire form that of *integerrima*.

This, which is the most abundant of our indigenous species, is also widely distributed in other parts of the world, and bears a variety of names, from having been supposed to be distinct by those who have met with it from such widely separated localities.

Being so common, and in an ordinary state uncouth-looking, it is not a plant for cultivation to any extent. In warm, damp wilderness-scenery, however, where it would attain great luxuriance, and the situation is such as would enable it to develop the arching character already mentioned, it might very properly be introduced.

\* Handbook of British Ferns: p. 134.



Genus X. SCOLOPENDRIUM, *Smith*.

THIS genus is botanically very distinct from all our other native Ferns; and from other points of view is exceedingly interesting. There is only one British species, but of this there are several varieties, which have a perfectly distinct aspect, owing to peculiarities in their development. They are all evergreen, and on this account, as well as by reason of their ornamental appearance and hardiness, they are among the best of all Ferns for out-door rock-work. The genus is known from all others by the peculiarities of its sori, which, though forming parallel oblique lines at intervals on each side the midvein, and having the appearance of being single if seen when mature, are in reality composed of two sori, set face to face, and so close together as to become laterally confluent. This is best seen just at the stage when the indusia are bursting; indeed, at a later stage of development an unpractised eye would probably fail to observe any evidence that such was really the structure. Nevertheless it is so; and the fructification, technically speaking, consists of sori confluent in pairs, the two sori forming each pair being placed face to face.

*Scolopendrium* is merely an alteration of *Scolopendra*, the





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*Nymphaeophyllum unilaterale*  
113

2.

114

3

*Nymphaeophyllum unilaterale*  
114

1.

*Scolopendrium vulgare*  
169

Fitch del et lith.

Reeve & Nichols, imp.



scientific name of the insect better known as the centipede ; and the name is applied from a fancied resemblance (in the position, we suppose) between the feet of a centipede and the lines of fructification produced on the fronds of the Fern.

SCOLOPENDRIUM VULGARE, *Symons*. — The Common Hart's-tongue. (Plate XV. fig. 1.)

This is a common plant, nevertheless its shining bright green, though simple fronds, contrasting so beautifully with the feathery aspect much more common among the Ferns, procure for it admirers whether seen in a wild or cultivated state. It grows in tufts ; the fronds, which are evergreen, vary in length from six inches to a foot and a half, and even more, and are either stiff and erectish when growing under circumstances which render them dwarf, or more or less spreading and drooping when in situations which are favourable to enlarged development : in the former case the fronds are thicker and more leathery in texture ; in the latter, thinner and less rigid, from being produced in very damp shady situations. The usual form of the fronds is what is called strap-shaped, that is, narrow oblong-lanceolate, much elongated ; they taper towards, and are acute at, the apex, narrowing a little downwards, and becoming cordate at the base ; the margin is entire, or very slightly wavy, and they

are supported on shaggy stipes of about a third of their entire length.

The fronds have a strong midrib or costa, extending throughout their whole length, from which are produced forked veins, the branches of which (venules) lie parallel, and proceed direct towards the margin, terminating just within the edge in a club-shaped apex. The veins are usually forked twice, but they are not constant to any exact number of divisions. The sori, which are oblong patches of unequal length, lying in the direction of the veins at short intervals along the upper two-thirds of the length of the frond, are each composed of two proximate lines of fructification laterally united; each of these lines, however, consisting of a complete sorus, so that the two united are properly called a twin sorus. This is the mark of the genus *Scolopendrium*. This twin sorus is always produced between two fascicles of veins; that is, the lowermost venule produced by one vein, and the uppermost venule produced by the vein next below—these two venules lying, of course, contiguous, each become the receptacle upon which a line of spore-cases is produced. The indusia which cover these two lines of spore-cases have their attachment respectively on the upper and lower sides of their venules, the other edges overlapping

one the other; the free margin, therefore, is exterior with reference to the fascicle of venules to which it belongs. When very young there is no evident trace of separation at the part where they overlap, but as they advance towards maturity the separation becomes apparent, and they eventually open down the centre, one indusium turning upwards and the other downwards, the two lines of spore-cases they had covered becoming confluent and undistinguishable without manipulation.

This is the ordinary form of *Scolopendrium*; but there are some very curious and distinct varieties, differing only, however, in the form of the fronds, and not in the fructification, where it is present. Of these varieties it is deserving of especial mention that they are perfectly constant under cultivation, although they have, no doubt, originated in aberrations, that is to say, accidental variations of the original species, which have been perpetuated either naturally or by art.

The most beautiful of these varieties is that called *crispum*, in which, while the same outline of frond prevails, yet the leafy portion is so much more developed than the midrib, that the margin becomes excessively undulated, giving the fronds a very elegant curled or crisped ap-



pearance. This sort is usually barren, though we have seen it, when somewhat less curled, produce the usual fructification.

Another variety is called *polyschides*, or *angustifolium* by some. The fronds of this are linear, and blunt at the apex, much narrower than in the common sort, and the margin is deeply and irregularly lobed, and crenated. This sort is fertile, and its sori are short, and instead of being ranged in a single series on each side the midrib, as is usual in the common sort, they form two irregular lines on each side. A very curious form, lobed in the same manner as this variety, but having more the outline of the common sort, has been found by Sir W. C. Trevelyan, in Somersetshire; it is remarkable in having a longitudinal ridge on each side between the midrib and margin, on the exterior of which ridge the short interrupted sori are produced.

A third variety is *multifidum*. This has the fronds forked either near the apex or sometimes near the base; each branch is again more or less repeatedly forked, and the apices of all the forks are developed into irregular fan-shaped leafy expansions, to which the term multifid is applied. Sometimes the fronds are merely forked once or

twice, without being multifid, and this state has been called *lobatum*; in other cases the stipes itself becomes forked, bearing multifid branches, and this has been called *ramosum*; but it may be doubted whether these are more than accidental variations of the form called *multifidum*. This multifid sort is fertile.

The common Hart's-tongue is an inhabitant of hedge-banks, of old walls, and sometimes of the interior of wells, in which latter situation it acquires great luxuriance. It is one of the more commonly distributed species in England and in Ireland, less abundant in Scotland; and also found all over Europe. The varieties are rare in a wild state, and are now better known as cultivated plants.

Being an evergreen, and a plant of free growth, the Hart's-tongue is one of the most desirable hardy Ferns we possess for open rock-work. Its broad simple fronds serve to contrast with the more divided or compound forms; and its varieties all have a different aspect, combined with the same good qualities of hardiness and endurance. Shady and rather humid places are those in which this plant most delights, although, as is evident from its sometimes growing on walls, it will live in more exposed and arid situations. The plants, however, never acquire much vigour under such

circumstances, and have mostly a starved and stunted aspect. They are not particular as to soil, excepting that such as contains fibrous or half-decayed vegetable matter, or the damp surface of some porous stone, is much preferable to soil which is much spent and comminuted, as indeed is the case with respect to all Ferns.

The Hart's-tongue is sometimes called *Scolopendrium officinarum*, and has been named *Scolopendrium Phyllitidis*, *Asplenium Scolopendrium*, or *Phyllitis Scolopendrium*.

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Genus XIV. TRICHOMANES, *Linnaeus*. 169

THE *Trichomanes* is the most rare genus among our native Ferns; the indigenous species, of which only one occurs, being among the few which are met with very rarely indeed, and within a very narrow range. It, however, is not the most rare species, although very unfrequent, and local. Unlike in texture all the other native kinds excepting the *Hymenophyllums*, being quite pellucid, and of the most delicately crisped appearance imaginable, it is soon distinguished by this mark alone. The fructification, too, is here totally unlike that of all others, except the *Hymenophyllums*,





*Phlogoxylum vulgatum*  
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*Trichomanes radicans*  
175

*Botrychium Lunaria*  
97



from which in the native species it is easily distinguishable, although in some exotic kinds the differences almost vanish. The sure technical mark by which to distinguish *Trichomanes* and *Hymenophyllum* among the British Ferns, lies in the fact of their spore-cases being contained within deep urn-shaped pits or recesses at the margin: in these two families the fructification is at the *margin* instead of being situated at the *back* of the fronds. *Trichomanes* is known from *Hymenophyllum* by its urns, or involucre as they are called, being entire, while those of *Hymenophyllum* are split lengthwise into two valves. In both cases the spore-cases are clustered around hair-like receptacles, which are, in fact, the ends of the veins of the fronds projecting into the urns. In *Hymenophyllum* these hairs are always shorter than the urn, but in *Trichomanes* it is usual for them to project more or less, so that the fronds become somewhat bristly when very full of fructification; and hence has arisen the common name of Bristle Fern, which is applied to the group.

The name *Trichomanes* itself has the same signification: it comes from two Greek words, meaning *hair*, and *excess*, in reference to these projecting hair-like receptacles.

TRICHOMANES RADICANS, *Swartz*.—The Bristle Fern.  
(Plate XVIII. fig. 1.)



This very beautiful plant exists only in the immediate neighbourhood of waterfalls, and in situations where a constant moisture is maintained. This is, indeed, quite necessary to it, on account of its semi-membranous texture, which shrinks before an arid atmosphere; and hence it can only be successfully cultivated when kept quite close, and constantly wetted over-head. This species has a creeping stem, smallish, wiry, and black-looking, clothed with pointed scales. The fronds are three or four times pinnatifid, cut up into small linear segments, which are entire or bifid at the apex, and have a stout nerve or vein running up their centre, and rendered very conspicuous in consequence of the thin pellucid texture of the leafy expansions which surround it. Or the frond may be described as consisting of a series of three or four times branched rigid veins, margined throughout by a thin, pellucid, cellular expansion, or wing, a greater or less number of the apices of the veins becoming surrounded by the cellular membrane in the form of an urn or vase, and within them bearing the fructification.

The fronds are pendulous, and vary from an angular-ovate to a lanceolate form, the divisions being considerably undulated, so that they acquire a crisped appearance. The first series of lobes are usually of an ovate-lanceolate form;

the next series shorter, more ovate, and the third series of divisions narrow, more or less linear. The ultimate branches of the veins which extend into the divisions of this third series, end just at or within the apex of the lobes if they are barren; but if they are fertile, they are produced beyond the margin, and surrounded at the base by the urn-shaped involucre, within which the spore-cases are placed. Sometimes the involucre is so placed as to appear immersed within the margin, but it more frequently projects beyond the margin. There is also considerable variation as to the length to which the bristle-like receptacle is extended beyond the involucre; sometimes scarcely exceeding it in length, and sometimes being four or five times as long.

The lanceolate form of this plant has been sometimes thought distinct from the broader form, but the general opinion is, that it is an extreme variety of the same species; to this the name of *Andrewsii* is applied, in compliment to the gentleman by whom it was first discovered.

The Sister Isle now claims, so far as the British Isles are concerned, sole parentage of this lovely, half-transparent species. There, amidst dripping rocks, it thrives with a degree of luxuriance which charms every one who has seen it creeping over their shelving ledges. It is said to have

been formerly found in Yorkshire. The same species is widely distributed in the warmer parts of the world.

The variety and elegance of this plant make it a favourite species for cultivation. The conditions of success are, a close atmosphere, shade, moderate warmth, constant but not stagnant moisture, and a porous surface to which the roots may cling.

Among the many names which have been applied to this plant, the following are the most likely to occur in English books :—*Trichomanes speciosum*, *Trichomanes brevisetum*, *Trichomanes alatum*, and *Hymenophyllum alatum*.

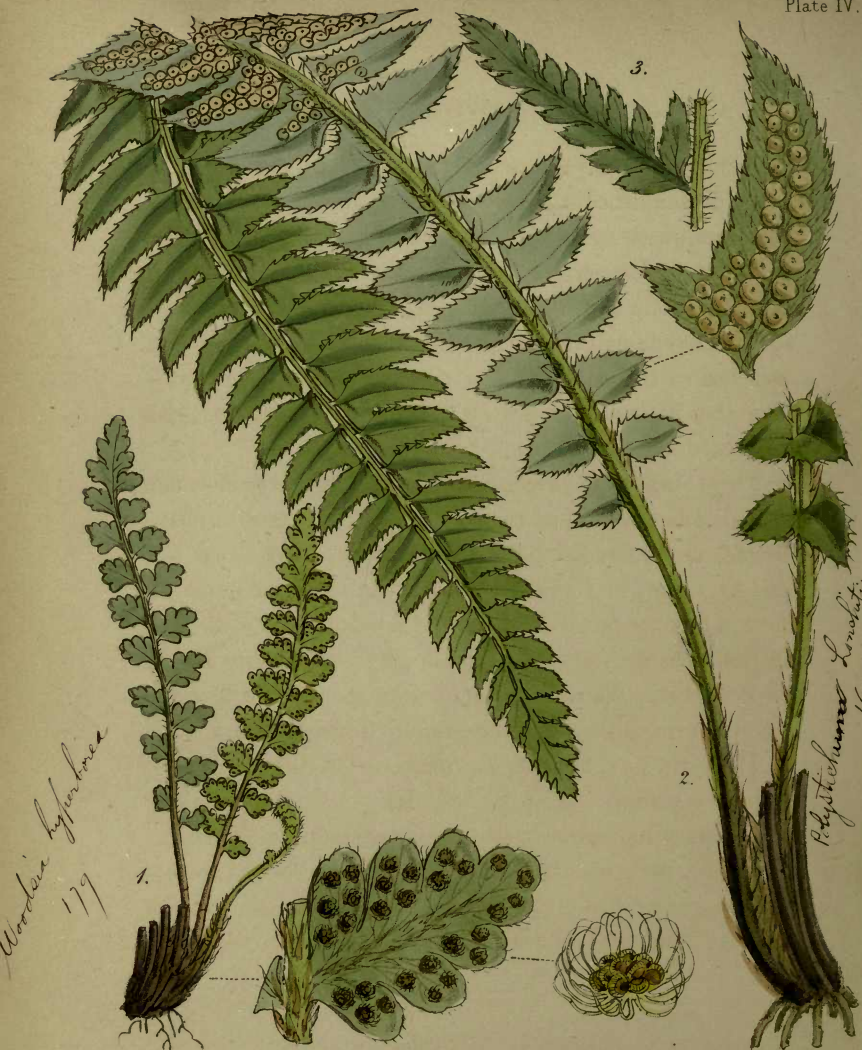
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### Genus III. WOODSIA, *R. Brown.*

THE *Woodsias* form a family group consisting of two diminutive kinds, which, however, possess much interest among the British species on account of their extreme rarity. These Ferns are furnished with indusia, and by their peculiar construction and position they may readily be known. The peculiarities consist in their being not placed as a cover to the sori, but attached underneath them; when very young they indeed enclose them, but subsequently in each case







*Woodwardia hyperborea*  
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*Polystichum lanolatum*  
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they split from above into narrow scale-like segments not easily distinguished, at least without optical assistance, from the hairs which occur with them on the fronds. In the full-grown state, the sori are consequently seated in the centre of a spreading tuft of hair-like scales, which are formed of the lacerated margins of the indusium—the latter being attached to the frond at the point beneath the capsules. No other native Ferns possess a structure at all approaching to this.

These Ferns were formerly ranked with the Polypodies and *Acrostichums*, but when the structure of this race of plants became better understood, they were very properly separated, and they now, in conjunction with some few foreign kinds, form a distinct family circle. The name *Woodsia* was given in compliment to a clever veteran English botanist, Joseph Woods, Esq., whose name has been recently before the public as the author of a very useful 'Tourist's Flora.'

WOODSIA HYPERBOREA, *R. Brown.*—The Blunt-leaved or Alpine Woodsia. (Plate IV. fig. 1.)

This is a diminutive species, never exceeding a few inches in stature, and renewing its fronds annually in the spring, the older ones being destroyed by the frosts and cold of winter: when this influence is felt by the plants, the fronds



quickly lose their vitality, and are cast off at the articulation or joint near the base of the stipes, which occurs in this family. The Alpine *Woodsia*, like its congener, grows in a tufted manner, sending up several fronds from the crown, from the base of which the dark-coloured wiry roots are protruded. In form these fronds are longish and comparatively very narrow, almost linear, as it is termed; and they are pinnately divided into several roundish triangular pinnæ, which are shallowly lobed on the margin, and are usually set on alternately along the opposite sides of the stalk or rachis; those towards the lower part are usually placed at a greater distance apart than those near the upper end. They are nearly smooth on the surface, and, in this respect, unlike those of the kindred species, which have a much more hairy appearance; small hair-like scales, in company with hairs, are, however, present in both species.

The midvein of the pinnæ is indistinct, and throws out venules into each lobe, these venules being more or less branched according to the size of the lobes. The sori are placed near the extremity of the venules, and are often abundantly produced, so as to become crowded on the pinnæ.

The Alpine *Woodsia* is named *W. alpina*, by Mr. New-

man; and has formerly been called *Acrostichum alpinum*, *Acrostichum hyperboreum*, *Polypodium hyperboreum*, and *Polypodium arvonicum*.

The two English *Woodsias* are in Great Britain found only in high mountain regions, where they grow from the crevices of the moistened rocks. They are both rare, though, from the inaccessible localities in which only they occur, they may really be more abundant than is generally supposed. Both also appear to be confined to the northern parts of our hemisphere.

From their rarity rather than their beauty these form interesting pot-plants. They require to be kept in a cold shady frame, to be potted in very porous soil, and to be carefully guarded against drought or stagnant moisture.

WOODSIA ILVENSIS, *R. Brown*.—The Oblong *Woodsia*. (Plate III. fig. 2.)

A deciduous species, dying down to the ground annually in winter, and reviving with the returning spring. Its very short stems form tufts, which, if not disturbed, and are situated under favourable circumstances, grow into large masses, speaking comparatively with its diminutive stature. The fronds average about four inches in height, and are less frequently found larger than smaller than this. Their form

is lanceolate, more or less broad, and in their mode of division they are pinnate, the pinnæ usually set on nearly or quite opposite in pairs, and having an obtusely oblong outline, with a deeply-lobed or pinnatifid margin. They are of a thick dull-looking texture, and are more or less clothed on both surfaces, but especially on the veins beneath, with minute bristle-like scales, and shining jointed hairs, among which the sori are almost concealed. The stipes is also scaly, and, as occurs in a whole group of these *Woodsias*, has a joint or articulation at a short distance from its base, at which point separation takes place if the fronds are left on to attain a good old age, the lower part remaining attached to the caudex, while the upper part falls away.

The veining of the segments of the pinnæ consists of a rather indistinct midvein, from which the venules, either simple or branched, proceed towards the margin, near to which the sori are produced.

There seems no reasonable doubt that the Fern which Linnæus called *Acrostichum ilvense* is that now under notice. It has also been called *Polypodium ilvense*.



## THE BRITISH CLUB-MOSSES.

Genus XIX. LYCOPODIUM, *Linnaeus*.

THE *Lycopodiums*, commonly called Club-mosses, are moss-like plants, mostly of creeping or decumbent habit; and their stems, which consist of annular or spiral vessels intermixed with cellular matter, are clothed with cellular leaves, so placed that they overlie each other like the tiling of a roof. The fructification is produced in the axils of the leaves, and is in most of the species confined to the apices of the branches, where it forms a cone-like head.

The organs of reproduction at once distinguish the Club-mosses from all other plants. They consist of kidney-shaped spore-cases, one- to three-valved, and containing bodies of two distinct kinds. One kind consists of minute powdery matter, in the shape of smooth resinous grains, which, by reason of lateral pressure, acquire the form of irregular polygons. These bodies have been called antheridia by some botanists, and their granular contents have been con-

sidered as pollen by some, and as abortive spores by others. The other kind of spore-case contains three or four roundish fleshy bodies, which are marked at the apex by a three-branched line, and are many times as large as the granular bodies which have been already mentioned. These larger bodies have been called spores or oophordia, and by some observers anthers.

The true explanation of these parts is a matter of doubt. All that is certainly known is, that the larger bodies do germinate, or at least vegetate, and according to a statement of Willdenow the smaller ones germinate also. It seems probable that the suggestion made by Dr. Lindley is correct, namely, that the powder-like grains are true spores, while the large ones are buds or viviparous organs. This view is supported by the descriptions which have been given of the supposed germination of these larger bodies, in which a process quite analogous to the vegetation of a bud is clearly pointed out.

The granular matter is produced by all the species of *Lycopodium*, but the large fleshy bodies are found only in a few of the species. It has been usual to regard both sets of organs, when present, as axillary to the leaves or bracts, and so they may be considered for all practical purposes.

A different theoretical explanation has, however, been given by Muller, a German writer, who considers the oophoridium as the entire metamorphosed terminal bud of a main axis; and he supports this opinion by the statement that in the early condition this oophoridium is opposite the spike in which the granular bodies are produced. The spike and the oophoridium are by him regarded as two metamorphosed branches into which a main axis has become divided, and it is only at a later period of growth that they both appear to belong to the same axis. The smaller granules, or antheridia, he regards as lateral buds, or twig buds, only to be distinguished from the terminal bud which is developed into the oophoridium, by the circumstance that the latter is a principal branch, possibly capable of a more extensive development into branch and foliaceous organs, while the twig, which is developed into an antheridium, is but a small particle of such a main branch.

These plants, like the Ferns, are most abundant in hot, humid, and especially insular, situations in the tropics, becoming scarcer northwards, but often even in very northerly regions covering large tracts of land. Our native species, with one exception, have a boreal and alpine tendency, being found most abundantly on the high lands of the north, and



decreasing in quantity as they advance southwards. Many of the tropical *Lycopodiums* are extremely beautiful: some are of scandent habit, and many of them attain considerable size.

Though of humble growth, and altogether unattractive in appearance, the Club-mosses are not without their use. More than one species is used in dying operations, and several have a medicinal reputation. The powdery matter called pollen, which is produced in considerable quantities by our common species, is highly inflammable, and is used in pyrotechny under the name of vegetable brimstone. Being of a drying and healing nature, it is also used to prevent excoriation in infants; and in pharmacy is also used sometimes for coating pills, as it is with difficulty wetted. The common Club-moss is emetic, and the Fir Club-moss is a cathartic and a powerful irritant; the former is also used in the treatment of cutaneous disorders, and is a reputed remedy for the *plica polonica*.

The tiny species of Lycopods now known to botanists have been thought to be the direct representatives of the vast tree-like *Lepidodendra* met with in a fossil state, and which in former ages must have rivalled our coniferous trees. The evidence in support of this view has been questioned; but

there seems no good reason to doubt, at least, that there is a very close affinity between the two races; and, indeed, some of the most skilful investigators of this subject find an almost complete agreement between them.

The British species of this order are all included in the genus *Lycopodium*, the name of which comes from *lycos*, a wolf, and *podos*, a foot, and is given in allusion to the supposed resemblance of its forked fertile stems to the claw of some animal, as of the wolf. Hence one species, and that which probably suggested the name, has been called Wolf's-claw.

LYCOPodium ALPINUM, *Linnæus*. — Savin-leaved Club-moss.

This kind of Club-moss gets its trivial name from the resemblance between its branches clothed with the closely-pressed leaves, and those of the Savin, *Juniperus Sabina*. It is a pretty little evergreen plant, forming thick wide-spreading patches of round, tough, creeping, sparingly leafy stems, bearing numerous other erect stems which are repeatedly branched in a dichotomous manner, growing erect, from three to six inches high. The colour of the plant is a bright pleasant green. The smaller branches are set more or less closely with the small smooth sessile leaves,

whose form is lance-shaped, ending in a point; they are of a thickish texture, and are rounded off at the back and hollowed out in front where they fit against the stem. On the dichotomous branches just mentioned the leaves are closely placed, the lower ones lying over the bases of those next above them, but they are arranged in four tolerably regular lines, so as to give a squarish form to their branches. The little fascicles of branches are for the most part level-topped, those which bear spikes of fructification being somewhat longer than the barren ones and twice dichotomous; the fruit spikes, which exceed half an inch in length, are rather thicker than the branch.

The fructifications consist of the little spikes just mentioned, which terminate a portion of the branches, and are erect, close, cylindrical, of a yellowish-green colour, and sessile on the branches, that is, joined to the leafy portion below, without any intermediate stalk-like contracted part. The spike consists of a number of bracts closely packed together, each having in its axil a capsule containing numerous very minute pale yellowish spores. The bracts are ovate, dilated at the base, drawn out into a longish point at the apex, and having the margins toothed. The capsules themselves, seated quite at the base of the bracts and



close to the axis of the spike, are roundish kidney-shaped, and of a yellow colour. The bracts become reflexed after the spores have been dispersed. The plants are firmly fixed to the soil, by means of tough strong wiry branched roots, produced at intervals along the prostrate stems.

The head-quarters of this species is in elevated mountainous tracts. It occurs very abundantly in Scotland and Wales; frequently in the hills of the north of England; and is less common in Ireland. It also occurs throughout the alpine districts of Europe and Northern Asia.

The Savin-leaved Club-moss is a bitter plant, with a somewhat aromatic flavour, and possesses emetic properties; it is, however, seldom applied to any use. Sir W. J. Hooker mentions having seen it used in Iceland as a dye for woollen cloths, to which it gives a pale and pleasant but not brilliant yellow. The process is simply that of boiling the cloth in water, along with a quantity of the *Lycopodium*, and some leaves of the Bog Whortleberry.

LYCOPODIUM ANNOTINUM, *Linnaeus*.—Interrupted Club-moss.

A very distinct plant, easily recognized by the interrupted leafing of its stems, the leaves being at intervals much diminished in size and less spreading in their direc-

tion, showing the points where annual growths have commenced and terminated. It is also known by its narrow leaves spreading out from the stem on all sides, and arranged in five indistinct rows. It is a large-growing species, often a foot high, with irregularly branched stems, which, after they have produced fruit-spikes, or have reached an equivalent age, become depressed, rooting at intervals, and throw up another series of upright branches. Mr. Newman, in his account of these plants, states that the spike is usually on the sixth or seventh joint or annual growth of the branches; and this appears to be pretty generally the case, though the branches are by no means all fertile. The annual increase of the stems is well marked by the closer pressed and shorter leaves which occur at the upper part of each growth, and this is what gives the interrupted appearance to the stems. The leaves, which do not decay for several years, are linear-lanceolate in form, and have their margins minutely serrulate, and their apex drawn out and terminating in a rigid point; they are attached directly to the stems without stalks, and are arranged in an indistinctly spiral or somewhat five-ranked order. The lower leaves, that is to say, those remaining on the older portions of the stem, are more spreading than those on the younger

growth, and indeed on the oldest portions often become somewhat deflexed; they have a yellowish-green colour, and are of a hard rigid texture; they have moreover a stout midrib, prominent at the back.

The spike of fructification is in this species perfectly stalkless, being seated directly on the termination of the leafy branch. It is about an inch long, of an oblong form, and consists of closely overlapping bracts, of a roundish-ovate form, having a long narrow point and jagged membranous margins. In the axil of the bracts is produced a large reniform capsule, containing numerous minute pale yellowish spores. The bracts become reflexed when these spores have escaped from the burst capsule.

This a rare species, confined to wild mountainous localities, occurring in the Scottish Highlands, and formerly, if not now, plentiful on Glyder, in Caernarvonshire. It is not known to occur in England or Ireland, but is plentiful in the pine-forests of the north of Europe, and in some parts of North America.

LYCOPODIUM CLAVATUM, *Linnaeus*.—Common Club-moss. (Plate XX. fig. 6.)

This sort of Club-moss is of procumbent habit, having vigorous creeping stems often many feet in length, much



branched, and attached to the soil here and there by means of tough pale-coloured wiry-looking roots. The young branches, which are very thickly clothed with leaves, grow rather upwards at first, but soon all become prostrate, and cross and interlace, forming a close matted tuft, whence comes, in fact, the name it bears in Sweden—Matte-grass, or mat-grass.

These stems are densely clothed with small, narrow lanceolate, flattish leaves, which remain fresh through the winter; they are smooth on the margin, or very slightly toothed, and terminate in a long white filamentous point, which gives the branches a somewhat hoary appearance. The upright stalks supporting the spikes are bare of leaves, but have at intervals whorls of smaller bodies closely pressed to the stalk, and tipped with shorter but broader membranous chaffy processes; they are also of a pale yellowish-green colour.

The spikes of fructification are usually over an inch in length, and are supported by a stalk of about twice their own length. They are commonly produced in pairs, though sometimes singly, and occasionally three together on the same stalk. These spikes are cylindrical, and supported on a short pedicel at the top of the common stalk; they are

erect, white in front, but afterwards become more or less curved. The spikes themselves consist of crowded triangular-ovate acuminate bracts of a pale yellow colour, and having membranous serrated margins; in their axils the spore-cases are produced, and these are subreniform, two-valved, and filled with innumerable sulphur-coloured powdery spores. The bracts become reflexed after the spore-cases have shed their contents.

This is a common species, growing in moors and heathy places in mountainous and hilly tracts of country throughout England, Wales, and Scotland; and frequent, though less abundant, in Ireland.

The leafy stems of this species are used for dyeing purposes, as well as to fix colours in the stead of alum. The long slender stems, used under the name of Stag's-horn Moss, are formed into pretty ornaments for the decoration of the houses of rustics, and for filling their fire-grates during summer. Linnæus relates that in Lapland the boys have their heads decorated with chaplets formed of it, which—the twin spikes projecting on all sides—have the effect of calling up the idea of groups of fauns and satyrs. Indeed, the long flexible stems are not badly adapted for various decorative purposes.

LYCOPODIUM INUNDATUM, *Linnaeus*.—Marsh Club-moss.  
(Plate XX. fig. 4.)

This is a diminutive and common plant, very frequent on moist heaths and commons in the southern parts of England, less common northwards, comparatively rare in Wales and Scotland, and not found in Ireland. It prefers to grow on spots from which the turf has been pared.

It is of prostrate habit, with simple stems two or three inches long, growing close to the surface of the ground, to which they are firmly attached by a few short stout roots. They are thickly clothed with narrow linear-lanceolate leaves, which have an acute point, and are entire on the margin; those on the barren horizontal stems being curved upwards. The plant extends itself at the point throughout the growing season, the other end meanwhile undergoing a process of decay, so that in winter, when the growth is arrested, the decay still going on, the living stem is much reduced, and a small portion only remains over to produce new foliage the following season. The direction of the older portions may often be traced by means of a black line, caused by the decayed matter left on the surface of the soil where the stem has perished.

The spike of fructification, which is produced towards



autumn, is seated at the top of an erect branch-like peduncle, clothed throughout with leaves of the same shape as those on the horizontal stems; the peduncle and spike are nearly of equal thickness throughout, the spike about an inch long, the peduncle rather more. The spike is green, and is formed of narrow linear-lanceolate bracts, rather dilated at the base, and sometimes having one or two shallow teeth on each side. The spore-cases are in the axils of these bracts, and are nearly spherical, of a pale yellowish-green, containing numerous minute pale yellow sporules.

LYCOPODIUM SELAGINOIDES, *Linnaeus*.—Prickly Club-moss.

This interesting species has a slender, procumbent, often branched stem, the barren branches short and sinuous, the fertile ones ascending or erect, and from two to three inches high. They are clothed with lance-shaped leaves, of a delicate texture, jagged along the margins with spiny teeth; those on the decumbent stems being shorter, as well as more distant and spreading, than those of the fertile branches.

The inflorescence, as in the other species, is a terminal spike of about an inch in length, consisting of lance-shaped jagged-edged bracts, larger and more closely pressed than the leaves of the stem. These bracts produce from their

axils two kinds of fructification. The lower bracts bear in their axils large three-celled spore-cases, containing three globular oophoridia, or four-celled cases containing four of these bodies. The upper bracts bear subreniform spore-cases, containing the minute pulverulent pollen-like sporules. This is the only native species which produces the two separate kinds of spore-cases.

Though hardly to be considered a rare species, this is one of the less common; it is found in the north of England, Wales, and Scotland, in which latter country it is pretty generally distributed. In Ireland it is more common. The localities which it prefers are wet boggy places by the side of mountain rills.

LYCOPODIUM SELAGO, *Linnaeus*.—Fir Club-moss. (Plate XX. fig. 5.)

The Fir Club-moss is one of our commoner kinds, and in its parts is the most massive of any. It is, moreover, usually of upright growth, the others being decumbent, though of this there is a variety or mountain form sometimes met with, in which the stems are constantly prostrate. Indeed, in the commoner forms the upright habit, which is evidently natural to it, often gives way before the force of gravity, and in such cases the lower part of the stems is

found to be somewhat recumbent, while the upper parts retain their upright position. The stems vary from three or four to six or eight inches high, and are branched two or three times in a two-forked manner; they are stout, tough, rigid, nearly level-topped, and thickly clothed with imbricated leaves arranged in eight rows. These leaves are lance-shaped and acute, of a shining green, rigid and leathery in texture, and smooth on the margin; in plants which have grown in exposed places they are shorter and more closely pressed to the stem; while in plants developed in more confined and humid situations they are longer, less rigid, and more spreading.

The fructification is in this species not borne in terminal spikes as in the other kinds, but is produced in the axils of the leaves along the upper branches of the stem. The spore-cases are rather large, sessile, kidney-shaped, two-valved, and filled with minute pale yellow sporules.

Besides the ordinary sporules, the plant is furnished with other means of propagation in the shape of deciduous buds, produced for the most part in the axils of the leaves, about the apices of the branches. These buds separate spontaneously, fall to the ground, and there vegetate, first producing roots, and then elongating into a leafy stem. They are



formed by an altered leaf, which, becoming somewhat swollen on the outside, protrudes from its inner margin five smaller lanceolate leaves or teeth, the whole being elevated on a short hardened footstalk. Mr. Newman describes these changed leaves as becoming transformed into irregular six-cleft calyces or cups, the outermost lobe of the six being longer and larger than the rest, and of the pair on each side, one being generally incumbent on the other so as to nearly conceal it. Within this is a whorl of five parts representing a gemma, or bud; the three inner lobes of this series are large and prominent, and of an ovate oblong acute form, the two outer lobes are very small, scale-like, one closely appressed to the anterior, the other to the posterior surface of the bud. In the centre of the three inner lobes, in due time, appears a thickish oblong body, which is in reality the undeveloped stem, and eventually elongates, puts out small leaflets, and becomes a plant.

These buds are capable of growth either while attached to their parent stem or when detached and in contact with the soil; and they appear to be the chief means of propagation possessed by this species, for the statements which have been made respecting the germination of the sporules of the Fir Club-moss are open to much doubt. Probably it was

these buds which were caused to germinate. The buds themselves offer much analogy to the larger spores or oophoridia produced by some other species, and afford an additional argument in support of the view which regards these oophoridia as gemmæ, or buds.

There is no doubt this plant possesses some medicinal properties, though it is not now used in regular practice. It is powerfully irritant, and is used by country people, in the form of an ointment, as a counter-irritant in parts near the eye, as a remedy for diseases of that organ; it appears to be also sometimes employed as an emetic and cathartic, but not without danger. A decoction is, on the authority of Linnæus, used in Sweden to destroy vermin on cattle. It is also employed for dyeing purposes, and to fix the colour of woollen cloths.

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The *Lycopodiums* are not frequently seen in cultivation, but they nevertheless, equally with the Ferns, would become a source of much interest if brought constantly under the eye in a living state; and in an equal degree the study of them in this condition—the watching of their progress and deve-

lopment day by day—would contribute to the thorough understanding of them and their differences.

We venture to hope, therefore, that some of our readers may be induced to fit up a Wardian case for the Club-mosses; and with a view to assist them in so doing we offer a few suggestions and hints as to their cultivation.

A small Wardian case, a northern aspect, a few blocks of sandstone, and some peat soil, are the materials that would be required.

No contrivance could be better adapted to their wants than a Wardian case, which, while it would protect them from the changes of temperature incidental to a lowland climate, would secure to them a calm and moist atmosphere, which they all prefer. The interior should be fitted up with an artificial mound of "rock-work," made of lumps of soft sandstone, in the disposal of which there will be an opportunity for the display of much taste. At the base of the "rock-work" there should be a little pond of water, in which *Isoetes* and *Pilularia* might be cultivated. A portion of the peaty soil should be introduced into the interstices of the rock-work, and about its base on the margins of the water. In the former situations the smaller and alpine species, such as *alpinum*, *annotinum*, and *selagi-*



*noides*, should be planted; while on the lower and damper parts should be placed such as *inundatum* and *clavatum*.

The soil employed should be peat earth intermediate in texture between the spongy and the unctuous kinds; that used among the rock-work may have in addition a portion of the sandstone pounded and intermixed with it. That used for *inundatum* in the lower part of the case will not require this intermixture, and, in fact, will be the better as it approaches the unctuous texture just referred to, which the presence of a good supply of water will soon give to it.

All parts of the soil should be kept rather moist than otherwise, by the application of fresh water occasionally; but as the confinement of the atmosphere in the damp state, in a close case, might tend to produce decay in some parts of the vegetable tissues, the little door or hinged sash may from time to time be left open for a few hours, in order that the stagnant moisture may be carried off, when a fresh supply will be doubly grateful to the plants.

It must be recollected, that the soil will be exposed to very slight drying influences, and can, therefore, never require to be very copiously supplied at any one time; the proper course being, rather to ventilate frequently, say once a week, in order to carry off the accumulated damp-

ness, and then by a moderate fresh supply to produce a continued change of the watery element. For the same reason, and to prevent the souring of the soil, which always takes place more or less when it is in contact with stagnant water, an outlet at the bottom of the case should be carefully provided, by which all the free water at least, which drains through after the soil has been irrigated, may be removed as it accumulates.

As to aspect, the northern is decidedly the best, principally for the reason, that in such a situation the sun has less influence on the temperature of the interior of the case; and extremes of confined heat would be anything but favourable to these plants.

The appearance of the case would, no doubt, be improved by covering the soil entirely with living green Sphagnum moss, which, if neatly packed on the surface with the tops of its stems uppermost, would continue to grow and retain its verdure. Most of the species of Club-moss would prefer to grow amongst the Sphagnum, which, as it made fresh growth, should, to prevent its being drawn up and smothering the plants, be neatly clipped down occasionally with a pair of scissors.

The interest of such a collection, so far as their appear-

ance is concerned, would depend of course upon the taste with which the rock-work was designed and executed, and the plants distributed about it; but whatever the result as a matter of taste, the study of the living plant might be prosecuted without inconvenience, and—which could never happen in their wild localities—all the species might be brought under the eye at one time, for the purpose of contrasting them, and studying their differences.



## THE BRITISH PEPPERWORTS.

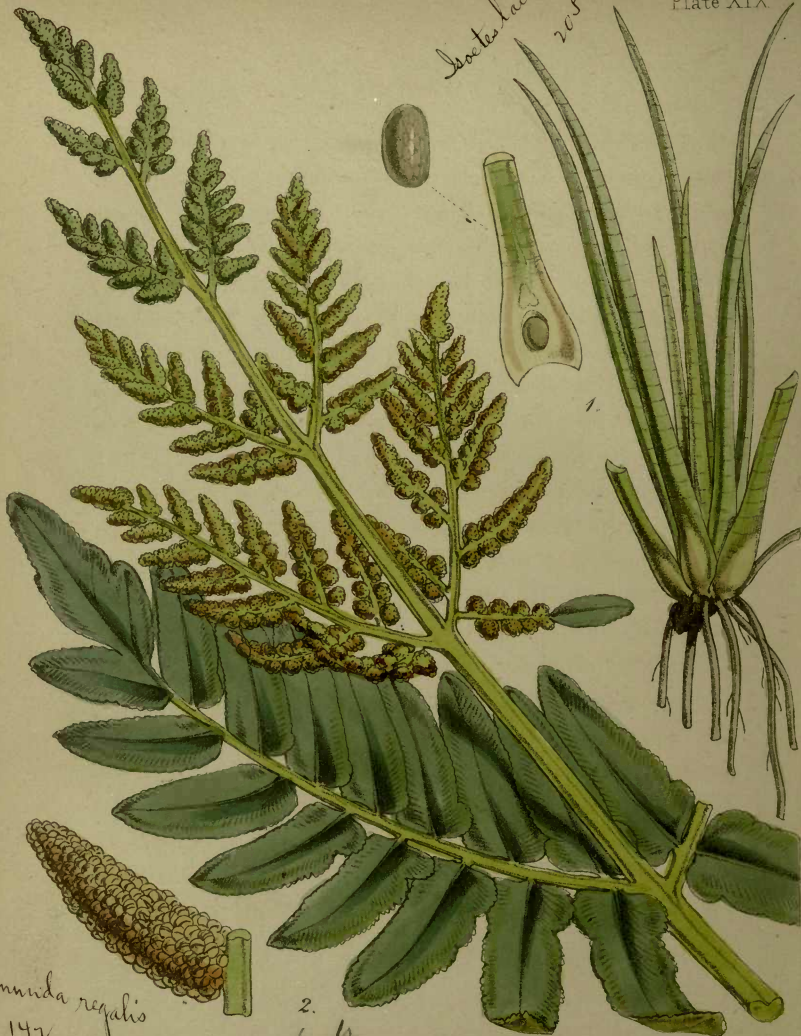
THE group of plants to which the name of Pepperworts has been given, is technically called *Marsileaceæ*, and contains but a few genera, these being of very curious structure. It has only two representatives in the British flora. These two plants belong to different genera, and are both submerged aquatic plants of small size, agreeing in having grassy or quill-like foliage, but differing materially in habit, the one being a creeping grower and the other tufted; the fructification also presenting some material differences. *Isoetes* is sometimes classed with the Club-mosses instead of the Pepperworts.

## Genus XX. ISOETES.

*Isoetes*, which takes its scientific name from the Greek words *isos*, equal, and *etos*, the year, from its retaining its fronds throughout the year, is commonly called Quillwort. The genus differs from *Pilularia*, its nearest ally, and with which it is associated in the order of Pepperworts, in having



*Acrostichum*  
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*Asplenium regalis*

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its spore-cases enveloped by the dilated bases of its hollow leaves ; some of the spore-cases containing large, and some much smaller pollen-like sporules. It may also be known by its hollow leaves being composed of four rows of elongated cells, which give it a bluntly quadrangular section ; but this peculiar construction of the stems is not always to be observed, except in fresh specimens, the pressure to which they are subjected in the process of drying breaking up the partitions of the cells, so that the stem appears to be composed of one series of large elongated cells. There is but one species, the *I. lacustris*, a stemless quill-leaved submerged plant, which gives the appearance of a green turf to the bottom of the water where it occurs.

ISOETES LACUSTRIS, *Linnaeus*.—The European Quillwort, or Merlin's Grass. (Plate XIX. fig. 1.)

This is a very curious plant, growing at the bottom of our mountain lakes, and having, as has been remarked, the appearance of a submerged grass, so that the unexperienced eye would probably pass it by unnoticed. It has a fleshy tuber, of a nearly globular form, white, and of compact texture internally, but spongy and of a dark brown colour externally. In the centre is a small nearly pellucid part, which appears to be the growing point, since it is from this

point that the leaves appear to have their origin. Some botanists have held the opinion that it continues to die at the circumference while it grows in the interior, and the appearances presented by the exterior and interior of the tuber seem rather to confirm this view. From these tubers are produced the long semipellucid tubular roots, which are either simple or forked near their extremity, and naturally strike downwards almost perpendicularly. Mr. Newman describes the taste of the tubers as being earthy, but not otherwise remarkable.

The leaves spring from the crown of the tuber, and grow erect to the height of four or six inches, or more. They are persistent, and of an olive-green colour, and their general form is awl-shaped. The basal portion is dilated and furnished with membranous margins; above this dilated base they are nearly round, or, more exactly, bluntly quadrangular, being formed of four parallel hollow tubes, which tubes are subdivided at irregular distances by transverse partitions: towards the apex they taper off and terminate in a sharp point. The transverse partitions above mentioned, being visible through the texture of the leaf, give it a jointed appearance. Owing to their brittleness, they not unfrequently break off at one of these joint-like points,

their basal parts and the decaying remains of the older leaves continuing to encircle the base of the young vigorous leaves springing from the centre.

The fructification is contained within the dilated bases of the leaves, and consists of roundish, hard, membranous spore-cases. Some of these spore-cases contain roundish bodies or spores, marked with a triangular suture on the top, and a transverse annular one in addition; these spores separate at the sutures into three triangular valves, exposing an interior subglobose semi-gelatinous substance; externally they are opaque, whitish, and rough with minute prominent points. The other set of spore-cases—usually said to occur at the base of the inner leaves, while the former occupy the bases of the outer ones, but, according to Mr. Newman, not following any law in their relative position—contain minute angular sporules, which are very numerous, and of a pale yellow colour. These different kinds of spores have been sometimes called anthers and ovules, as have the similar bodies in the Club-mosses; but it is rather to be considered that the smaller grains are the imperfect representatives of the larger ones, since as yet we possess no good evidence of the sexuality of this race of plants.

Two distinct-looking forms of the Quillwort have been



observed, the one having thicker, shorter, and more spreading leaves than the other; in the latter they are more slender and erect. These have been thought distinct varieties or even distinct species by some botanists, but are more probably mere conditions of the plants brought about by external circumstances. Several theories have been propounded as explanatory of the way in which this occurs. Sir J. E. Smith says, the taller, more slender variety may, perhaps, be caused by those sudden risings of the waters so frequent in mountainous countries, which will account for all its peculiar characters. Mr. Wilson believes the solitary plants with short spreading leaves to be the first full development after the seedling state, and before any lateral extension of the rhizome has taken place; and argues, that when the plants become crowded, either by lateral increase or offsets, or by a multitude of individuals in close contact, the fronds can only grow erect. Mr. Newman thinks, that when the seeds arrive at maturity, the leaf in whose base the spore-case is situated decays and becomes torn or broken off, allowing free egress to some of the spores, which become dispersed, and produce the isolated dwarf spreading plants. Others and by far the larger number of the spores do not become thus disengaged, and are compelled to germinate in the capsule, throwing up

most dense tufts of slender leaves. Without having made any critical observations on this point, we decidedly prefer Mr. Newman's explanation, which, as would be at once recognized by horticulturists, is quite sufficient to account for the observed differences in habit among the plants.

It is said that fish feed on the *Isoetes*; and that, when brought within the reach of cattle, it is greedily eaten by them, and proves fattening.

The cultivation of the Quillwort presents few difficulties; in fact, water and a little soil are the only requisites. In such a miniature lake as has been recommended to be introduced in a Wardian case fitted up for Club-mosses, this plant and the *Pilularia* might be made to thrive; but the most interesting way in which it could be grown would be in an aquatic plant-case, with transparent sides, or in any substitute for such a structure, such as a glass jar of sufficient depth. Planted in this way, its growth could be watched, and many interesting points of its economy could not fail to reward a careful observer.

The aquatic plant-case, like the Wardian case, admits of much variety of detail. The most useful form is probably that of a rectangular glass cistern of the requisite size, held together by a light metal frame, and closed in by a glass lid.

This is to be supported in the usual way on a mahogany or other stand. On the bottom, or projecting from the sides, proportionate-sized masses of coral or other rocks should be introduced, among which a little soil introduced would serve to fix and nourish the plants; and these being planted, and the case supplied with water, might, though in their proper element, be examined without difficulty, and at all times.

Such a case might be placed in the inside of any convenient window, provided it were not too much exposed to direct sun; for if placed where the sun would have much influence on the temperature of the water, the plants would probably suffer. Indeed, the best aspect would be the north; and in that case, by carrying a ledge of rock just above the water surface, a situation would be provided which would of all others suit the beautiful Bristle Fern and the Filmy Ferns (*Trichomanes* and *Hymenophyllum*). Some of the very small kinds of fish and the *small* aquatic mollusks might be introduced with advantage, and they would impart something like animation to the water.

A miniature Aquarium of this kind, planted with the *Valisneria* and other aquatics, and the *Trichomanes* and other Ferns, and stocked with miniature fish, is no ideal thing, but has been already constructed, and proves to be of the



deepest interest to those who are truly observers of nature. The merit of the adaptation is entirely due to Mr. Warington, of the Apothecaries' Hall.

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Genus XXI. PILULARIA, *Linnaeus*.

OF this genus, there is one British species, *Pilularia globulifera*, the Pillwort, or Pepper-grass, a creeping-stemmed species, with filiform grass-like leaves, growing in clusters at intervals along the thread-like stems, and bearing the almost sessile fructification at their base. The parts of fructification differ considerably in position from those of the allied genus *Isoetes*, in which the spore-cases are enveloped in the thickened bases of the leaves, those of the *Pilularia* being quite free, and attached directly to the stem, though seated at the base of a small tuft of leaves. They also differ in structure, the fructification of *Isoetes* consisting of two different kinds of bodies, namely granular and pulverulent bodies, occupying separate spore-cases; while in *Pilularia* the two kinds are produced within each spore-case, the larger bodies occupying the lower, and the smaller ones the upper parts.

The name comes from *pilula*, signifying a little pill, the spore-cases having a nearly globular form.

PILULARIA GLOBULIFERA, *Linnaeus*.—The Pillwort, or Pepper-grass. (Plate XVII. fig. 2.)

Pepper-grass is a small creeping plant with grassy leaves, growing usually in the shallow margins of lakes and pools, where it is occasionally overflowed; but sometimes occurring entirely submerged. The stem, or caudex, is thread-like, composed of several longitudinal rows of hollow cells, rough externally on the younger portions with hair-like scales, but otherwise smooth, occasionally branched, and producing on the lower side at intervals of about half an inch, less or more, small tufts of fibrous roots, which are slender, simple or slightly branched, hollow, being divided longitudinally, and descending almost perpendicularly into the soil in which they become fixed. On the upper part of the stem, opposite the tufts of roots, occur tufts of about a similar number of erect leaves, which are curled up in the incipient state, like those of a Fern, but on unrolling assume the erect position.

These leaves are bristle-shaped, and of a bright green, smooth externally, hollow within, but unlike those of *Isoetes*, which are composed of four parallel lines of cells, the leaves of the Pillwort are divided longitudinally into various cells,



separated by partitions radiating from the centre ; they are from one to four inches long.

The fructifications consist of small globular spore-cases, attached by a very short stalk to the stem at the points whence the leaves and roots proceed, being in fact seated at the base, or in the axils of the leaves. They are densely covered externally with pale brown jointed hairs, and are about the size of a small pea or pepper-corn. These spore-cases are typically four-celled, and when quite mature, open at the apex, and divide into quarters, the four parts remaining attached to the footstalk by their base. The spores are attached to the interior of these valves along their centre, forming four lines, the lower part of the spore-case being occupied by the large, and the upper part by the small powdery bodies already mentioned ; the former are of a greyish colour, and have a roundish-oblong form, with a contraction in the middle, and a terminal nipple-like point, the latter consist of oblong pale yellow bodies filled with a powdery matter resembling pollen ; both are contained in transparent gelatinous bags.

The larger spores have been regarded as pistils, and the smaller ones as anthers, by those who have maintained the sexuality of these plants ; but there is no evidence whatever



to support the application of such names to the parts, at least in their ordinary signification. It seems more probable that the larger bodies are the perfect spores, while the smaller ones are merely abortive spores; at least this is the most reasonable explanation which has been offered. There is, indeed, no doubt of the larger bodies being spores, since they have been caused to germinate by different persons, and a very detailed record of some experiments and observations on this subject has been given by Mr. Valentine.

According to Mr. Valentine's observations, the first external sign of germination is either the appearance of four cells projecting through the apex of the nipple-like point of the spore, or a gradual swelling of that part, in which case the enlarging cellular mass distends the conical point, and at length appears externally with four of its cells projecting beyond the general mass, and compressed into a quadrangular form. Soon after the exposure of the entire germ, little rootlets shoot out from one side; they are simply articulated tubes, or elongated cells applied end to end. The germ now gradually points in two places, which points gradually lengthen, and each on dissection is found to consist of a closed sheath, one containing a leaf, the other a root. The young leaf, when rather longer than the spore, bursts

through its sheath, and the root protrudes before it is as long as the spore. After this first leaf has grown to about the length of a couple of lines, another issues from the germ close to the former, and then a bud begins to be developed from some indefinite part of the germ, but, like the leaves and root, from within the sheath. Sometimes this bud appears immediately after the first leaf, and without the production of a second. The bud is the rudimentary stem, the first growth from it being a leaf exhibiting, though slightly, evidence of gyration, and this is followed by a root furnished with its own sheath.

It is one of the doctrines of botanists, that in what are called Acrogenous plants—a group including Mosses, Club-mosses, Scale-mosses, Horsetails, and Ferns—germination takes place at no fixed point, but from any part of the surface of the spores; indeed this is one of the leading differences between what are called spores, and the reproductive organs of flowering plants, called seeds. But Mr. Valentine maintains, that it is incorrect to say this of the germination of *Pilularia*, for he is quite certain that in this instance germination invariably takes place at a fixed spot, which may be pointed out before germination has commenced. It is at a part of the spore, indicated by three ra-

diating lines, which appear to have been produced by the pressure of the three other spores that originally helped to constitute the quaternary union. The spores of some of the other tribes being apparently developed in similar unions, it is probable that similar lines, indicating a mode of opening by valves, also exist on them, and this is certainly the case in some instances, as in *Isoetes*, *Lycopodium*, and *Osmunda*; and in those cases in which such a structure is not visible, it is probably owing to a thickening of the membrane, or a deposition of opake matter on its surface, as in *Pilularia*, in the mature spores of which they can only be discovered by dissection, and in the abortive ones they cannot be discovered at all after the earlier stages of growth. It, however, does appear that in these plants, after the protrusion of the germ, it is immaterial from what part of that body the first leaves, root, or stem shall arise.

The Pillwort is widely distributed throughout the United Kingdom, but is apparently more abundant in England and Wales, than in Scotland and Ireland. It usually grows on the margins of lakes or pools, where it is covered by the water in winter, and more or less exposed during the summer; but it is also sometimes, though rarely, met with entirely submerged.



## THE BRITISH HORSETAILS.

THIS race of plants bears an aspect altogether different from that of the groups in whose company they are placed in books, and indeed they have no very obvious affinity to any existing order of plants. In their mode of growth they have a certain resemblance to a small group of plants known by the name of *Ephedra*, and belonging to the order *Gnetaceæ*, and also to another limited set called *Casuarina*; but this resemblance is confined to their general aspect, and is in great measure owing to the peculiar jointing of the stems and branches. With Ferns and Club-mosses they have little in common, though so frequently associated with them in books. Their most direct relationship is probably with a small group called Liverworts (*Marchantiaceæ*); and they have also some analogy with the aquatic group, *Characeæ*.

The Horsetails are distinguished from other plants by the following characteristics. They are leafless, branching plants, with fistular jointed stems, separable at the joints, where they are solid, and at these points surrounded by membranous

toothed sheaths : each joint in fact terminates above in one of these sheaths, into which the base of the next joint fits. The sheaths seem to represent abortive leaves. The fructification consists of terminal cone-like heads, made up of peltate, usually hexagonal scales, to the lower face of which the spore-cases are attached in a series around the margin.

The stems consist chiefly of cellular matter, but towards the circumference there is a layer of woody fibre, from which a series of plates of a similar nature project towards the centre. The centre, as already mentioned, presents a hollow cavity ; and between the outer and inner cuticle of the cylinder-like stem, occur one or more circles of hollow tubes, or air-cavities, differing in size and position, and in fact affording, by their comparative size, number, and arrangement, excellent auxiliary marks for the recognition of the species. Around these cavities, especially towards the exterior surface of the stem, occur numerous spiral vessels of small size.

The cuticle abounds in siliceous particles secreted in the form of more or less prominent little warts, which impart to the surface a greater or less degree of roughness in proportion to their prominence. In some species this deposit of siliceous matter is so great, that it is said, the whole of the vegetable

substance may be destroyed by maceration, the form of the plant being preserved entire in the flinty coating. It has been found that the ashes contain half their weight of silica. Some very interesting observations of Dr. Brewster, on the microscopic structure of this siliceous coating in *E. hyemale*, first published by Dr. Greville, we may quote.

“On subjecting a portion of the cuticle to the analysis of polarized light under a high magnifying power,” writes Dr. Greville, “Dr. Brewster detected a beautiful arrangement of the siliceous particles, which are distributed in two lines parallel to the axis of the stem, and extending over the whole surface. The greater number of the particles form simple straight lines, but the rest are grouped into oval forms, connected together like the jewels of a necklace by a chain of particles forming a sort of curvilinear quadrangle; these rows of oval combinations being arranged in pairs. Many of those particles which form the straight lines, do not exceed the five-hundredth part of an inch in diameter. Dr. Brewster also observed the remarkable fact, that each particle has a regular axis of double refraction. In the straw and chaff of wheat, barley, oats, and rye, he noticed analogous phenomena, but the particles were arranged in a different manner and displayed figures of singular beauty.



From these data Dr. Brewster concludes that the crystalline portions of silex and other earths which are found in vegetable films are not foreign substances of accidental occurrence, but are integral parts of the plant itself, and probably perform some important function in the processes of vegetable life."

Numerous stomates exist in the hollows of the fluted surface of the stems, the depressed part of each channel having two longitudinal series of these minute openings.

Beyond their employment in the arts, the *Equisetums* are of little importance in an economical point of view. They are useless as fodder, and exploded as physic, though they have had some reputed astringent virtues. The underground stems, however, contain in winter, when the plants are inactive, a considerable quantity of starch, and they may be occasionally eaten by animals. In the cells of these underground stems, during the month of October, the particles of starch may be seen in active motion, passing up one side and down the other, as is observed in the stems of *Chara*. Dr. Lindley mentions having often noticed this phenomenon in the stems of the great Water Horsetail.

The order of Horsetails consists of the one genus *Equisetum*, of which nine species are recognized as British.

Genus XXII. EQUISETUM, *Linnaeus*.

THE jointed tubular stems, and terminal cones of fructification, are marks by which the *Equisetums* may always be readily distinguished from all other plants. The species are, however, not so easily recognized among themselves, owing to the great sameness which occurs among certain groups of them. The chief features relied on for their discrimination, are the similarity or otherwise of the fertile and barren stems, the number of ridges or striæ which occur on the exterior surface of these stems, and the structure of the sheaths which surround the joints. By means of the peculiarities which these parts present, the species may be certainly identified, and after a little experience has been had, several of them may be at once known by means of those *primâ facie* appearances, which it is probable will become associated with the plants, in the mind of the attentive student. One peculiarity of the *Equisetums* is, that they have no leaves, these organs being represented by the tubular sheaths which are produced at every joint.

The name *Equisetum* is compounded from *equus*, a horse, and *seta*, a hair or bristle; whence comes the English name

of Horsetail, a not inapt comparison with the barren fronds of some of the species.

EQUISETUM ARVENSE, *Linnaeus*.—The Corn-field Horsetail.

This is the most common of the species, and in many places is an injurious weed, very difficult to eradicate. It occurs, here and there, almost everywhere in fields and waste places, especially where the soil is inclined to be sandy, and more abundant in moist than in dry places. It has long, creeping, underground stems, which are a good deal branched, and are cylindrical and jointed in the same way as the stems which rise above ground. At the joints they throw out whorls of tough, branching, fibrous roots. The aerial stems are of two kinds, the one simple and bearing the fructification only, the other branched and perfectly barren.

The fertile stems are quite without branches, and grow up early in spring, arriving at maturity and perishing long before the barren ones have completed their growth. They reach maturity in April and May. The stems vary, according to the locality where they grow, from three to eight or ten inches in height. They are hollow, succulent when fresh, and of a light brown colour, nearly smooth, and apparently without the siliceous coating common to the stems



of this race of plants. They are divided at intervals into joints of variable length, the number of joints being also variable, from six on stems of about four inches in length, to eight on those which measure eight inches, though sometimes specimens of equal length have but five or six joints. From this cause they are much more distant on some stems than on others; a space measuring three-quarters of an inch being sometimes interposed between the top of one sheath and the base of the next above it. On the other hand, they are sometimes so close as nearly to touch; but we have seen no instance in which the base of a sheath is covered by the sheath below it, except at the very lowest part of the stem, where they become much reduced in size, and are sometimes crowded. It is usual for each succeeding joint upwards to be somewhat more distant than the one beneath it. The sheaths are large and loose, widening upwards; they are pale-coloured, somewhat yellowish at the base, and are divided above into about ten dark brown teeth, which often adhere together in twos and threes. The teeth are very narrowly lance-shaped and sharp-pointed, and are the terminations of the ribs, about ten in number, by which the sheaths are marked.

These stems are terminated by cone-like heads, bearing

the spore-cases, attached to peltate scales, arranged in crowded whorls, the cones being rather more than an inch long, tapering somewhat above and below, and terminating in a blunt point. Below this is a bare portion of the stem, seldom less than an inch in length in fully developed specimens, but sometimes measuring as much as two inches. The peltate scales are arranged in whorls around the axis of the cone, as is the case generally in this family. The scales in one of these cones, according to Mr. Newman's computation, vary in number from one hundred to two hundred and fifty. At a right angle with their margin are ranged the spore-cases, four to seven in number, oblong, membranous, parallel, white cells, bursting finally into two longitudinal valves, and discharging an abundance of very minute globular spores, of a beautiful blue-green colour.

The barren stems are either erect or decumbent in their mode of growth, and are from one to two feet or more in height; they are often branched from the bottom to the top, but sometimes only the central and upper parts are branched. They spring up after the fertile stems have withered, and are of a pale green colour; at first crowded with short appressed branches, which, by degrees, become elongated, and assume a spreading or somewhat drooping

position, sometimes becoming again branched. The main stem has from ten to sixteen distinct shallow furrows, with corresponding ridges, and is, as well as the branches, studded over with minute siliceous warty particles. The sheaths, which fit somewhat closely to the stem, are furrowed like it, and terminate in an equal number of acute wedge-shaped dark-coloured teeth, which are often margined by a narrow brown membrane. Immediately below these sheaths spring out, from other short sheaths with obtuse brown segments, the whorls of branches, which are of variable number and length; they are four-ribbed, and their sheaths are four-toothed, the teeth being long and acute, of one colour, with a single rib extending to the extreme point of each tooth. The branches are four-angled.

The section of the stem often affords a good mark of recognition among the species of *Equisetum*. In that of *E. arvense* it is seen that the interior cavity occupies only about one-third of the diameter. The exterior surface is varied by about a dozen blunt ridges, having corresponding shallow depressions; within this, occupying about the centre of the ring, and alternating with the ridges, are a series of large roundish-oblong or obovate cavities, the narrow end of which is turned inwards; alternating again with them, and conse-



quently opposite to the external ridges, occurs an annular series of small circular cavities, which are placed near the inner surface of the tube.

This plant is not, as far as we are aware, applied to any use; and the harshness of its stems renders it by no means agreeable to cattle, although it often occurs abundantly among their pasturage; and in cultivated ground becomes a troublesome weed.

EQUISETUM HYEMALE, *Linnaeus*. — The Great Rough Horsetail. (Plate XX. fig. 1.)

The underground stems of this species of Horsetail are branched, and creeping to a considerable extent; they are black, and furnished with whorls of branched, black, fibrous roots. The aerial stems are in this species all alike in structure, those which bear fructification differing in no other particular from those which do not. They grow upright, and are scarcely ever branched: when this does occur a solitary branch is produced, and this protrudes from below the base of one of the sheaths of the stem. Their colour is a deep glaucous green.

These stems, which grow from two to three feet high, are cylindrical, tapering off at the apex, and marked on the thicker parts with from fourteen to twenty ridges, formed



*Equisetum*

*Lycopodium*





of a double row of elevated points. Their surface is very rough from the presence of these points, which consist of a coating of crystallized siliceous particles. In this species the sheaths fit closely around the stems, so that they are nearly cylindrical; they are marked by ridges of the same number as those on the stem, but less prominent, and they terminate in a series of teeth equal in number to the ridges, the teeth being black, membranous, and bristle-shaped, soon falling off, and leaving the margin crenated. The sheath immediately below the cone of fructification has, however, its teeth persistent, and it is somewhat funnel-shaped. The sheaths are at first pale green with a black margin; from this they change to be entirely black; and finally they become whitish in the middle, leaving a narrow ring of black at the base and margin.

In this species a section of the stem shows on the exterior a series of distinct ridges, formed of twin projections, and varying in number, as has been already explained; opposite to the furrows, between them, and occupying about the centre of the solid cylinder, is a ring of moderate-sized cavities. The central cavity is comparatively large.

The cones of fructification are comparatively small, and are seated on the apices of a number of the stems; they are

at first ovate and apiculate, subsequently becoming elliptical ; when young sessile in the sheath, but afterwards acquiring a short footstalk. They are dark-coloured, consisting of about forty to fifty scales, and abounding in light-coloured powdery spores. Each of the scales is impressed with two or three vertical lines.

This plant is found naturally growing in boggy shady places, and is much more abundant northwards than southwards, where it is rarely met with. Though distributed sparingly over the United Kingdom, its occurrence is strictly local.

The stems of this *Equisetum* are now and have been long employed in the arts as a material for polishing, the imported stems being known under the names of Dutch Rush and Shave-grass. They are obtained from Holland, where this species is planted to support the embankments, which it does by means of its branching underground stems. It has been suggested that our own sandy sea-coasts might be profitably planted with it.

The property which gains for it its commercial value is due to the presence of a very hard coating of siliceous matter, which is deposited in the form of little crystals, rendering the surface rough like a rasp or file, and hence not only woods, but

metals and stones may be polished by it. This siliceous coating is so entire, and of such density, that it is stated the whole of the vegetable matter may be removed by maceration, or, according to others, by burning, without destroying the form of the plant. The minute crystals of silex, of which the flinty coating consists, are arranged with a degree of regularity which, under a microscope, has a very beautiful appearance; they form a series of longitudinal elevated points, and in the furrows between them are cup-shaped depressions, at the bottom of each of which is placed a stomate or pore.

All the species of *Equisetum* have a flinty coating to their stems, and may be, and are, more or less employed in polishing; but the stems of the *E. hyemale* are much preferable to those of the other kinds, in consequence of their rougher and more hardened surface.

EQUISETUM LIMOSUM, *Linnaeus*.—The Water Horsetail, or Smooth Naked Horsetail.

This is a common species and generally distributed, occurring principally in pools, ditches, and marshy places, though occasionally in running streams. It is rather a tall-growing plant, the stems rising from two to three feet or more in height, springing from the joints of the dark



brown underground stems, which also produce whorls of black fibrous roots.

The stems are, though firmly ribbed, very smooth to the touch, their furrows being very shallow; their smoothness no doubt arising from the presence of a very slight coating of the siliceous particles, which, when more abundant, give their peculiar harshness to some of the species; probably, also, the particles themselves are in this species much finer and less prominent. Sometimes the stems are quite unbranched; sometimes furnished with irregular whorls of branches along all their central portion; and between these two extremes there occurs every conceivable degree of branching, from the single shoot produced here and there, through every gradation of imperfect whorls up to whorls of short branches almost complete. The branches, which are simple, nearly erect, and never acquire much length, are smooth like the stem. There is no material difference between the barren and fertile stems, except the presence of the fructification in the one case and not in the other; they are, therefore, said to be similar in structure.

The surface of the stem is marked with from sixteen to twenty very slight ridges, and the sheaths, which are short, rather closely fitted to the stem, and of the same colour in

the lower part, terminate in an equal number of dark-coloured awl-shaped teeth, which sometimes have a pale membranous margin. The branches are four- to eight-angled.

Owing to the shallowness of the ridges and furrows, the section of the stem shows a nearly smooth exterior outline, and the cylinder of the stem is furnished only with a row of minute cavities near the inner margin; this cylinder is very thin, compared with the diameter of the stem, the central cavity being unusually large. The present plant, therefore, though it has been considered a variety of *E. palustre*, is most strikingly distinct from that species in the structure of its stem.

The fructification is produced by a portion of the branches, in cones, at their apex; these cones are ovate obtuse, and very frequently sessile in the uppermost sheath. The scales are black, exceeding a hundred in number; the spore-cases are pale-coloured. Usually only the termination of the central stem bears fructification, but it sometimes happens, though rarely, that some of the uppermost branches are also fertile.

This plant is the most fodder-like of any of the *Equisetums*, owing to its less flinty cuticle, but in this point of

view, it is, at least in this country, of very small importance. It is, however, stated to be used in Sweden as food for cattle, "in order that the cows may give more milk;" and in Lapland, it is, even when dry, eaten with avidity by the rein-deer, though they will not touch common hay. Linnæus censures the improvidence of the Laplanders, in not providing during summer a supply of this plant and of the Rein-deer Moss, for winter use; thus making some provision for their herds at a time when the ground is covered with frost-bound snow, so as not to risk the loss of their most valuable or entire possessions. An instance is related by Mr. Knapp, in which a colony of the short-tailed water-rats made this plant their food, and in the evening might be heard champing it at many yards' distance.

EQUISETUM MACKAYI, *Newman*.—Dr. Mackay's Rough Horsetail.

This plant, on its discovery in the United Kingdom being first made known, was named *E. elongatum* by Sir W. J. Hooker. Mr. Newman has, however, since shown that it is not the species to which that name belongs, and he has given it that which we employ, it being applied in compliment to one of the original discoverers of the plant.

It is one of those species in which the stems that pro-



duce the fructification, and those which are barren, do not differ in any other respect, and are, therefore, said to be similar; and in which, also, the stems are almost branchless, the branching being mostly confined to the production of one or two erect lateral stems from near the base, and this lateral branching is by no means common. Sometimes, indeed, the upper part of the stem is also sparingly branched, but the branches are produced singly from the whorls; in very luxuriant plants, the branches are now and then themselves branched upon a similar plan.

Like the other species, this has a branching underground creeping stem, which is black, and produces whorls of branched fibrous roots from its joints. The above-ground stems are slender, and erect in their mode of growth; from two to three or four feet high; deeply furrowed, with a double row of elevated points along the ridges, which are usually from eight to twelve, but sometimes fourteen in number. The sheaths are close, cylindrical, and striated like the stem, terminating in a number of teeth equalling the striæ; these teeth are long, slender, awl-shaped, black with pale membranous margins, and usually, but not always, persistent. The sheaths are, for the most part, entirely black, but here and there they occur with a narrow

greyish ring, variable in position, being sometimes central, and at other times near the base or near the margin; it is, however, we believe always, much less decided and clearly defined than the pale-coloured band on the sheaths of *E. hyemale*.

The section of the stem differs from that of *E. hyemale*, to which it presents a general resemblance, in being smaller, showing fewer ridges, and having the cavities placed rather nearer the inner margin; the central cavity is also proportionally smaller. It has, consequently, on the exterior, a series of ridges formed of twin projections representing the double row of siliceous particles which extends along each ridge; and a series of cavities rather nearer the inner than the exterior surface of the ring.

The fructification consists of small black cone-like heads, of an oblong form, terminating in an apiculus. In our specimens they appear sessile in the upper sheath, but they are said to become elevated on a short pedicel. The scales, in one of these cones, number about thirty.

*Equisetum Mackayi* is found on the moist banks of the mountain glens of Scotland and the north of Ireland. It was first found in Ireland, and apparently by two botanists in company, Mr. (now Dr.) Mackay, and Mr. Whitla; this

was in 1833. It has subsequently been met with in other parts of Ireland, as well as in Scotland.

EQUISETUM PALUSTRE, *Linnaeus*.—The Marsh Horsetail.

A common species in boggy places and by the sides of ditches and water-courses. It has a creeping underground stem, which is black and shining, and from the joints of this are produced whorls of slender roots. The part of the stem which rises above ground is erect, growing from a foot to a foot and a half in height. The presence of fructification alone distinguishes the fertile stems from those which are unfruitful; both being erect, and bearing whorls of numerous branches.

The stems are somewhat rough on the surface, but less so than in many of the other kinds. They are marked on the exterior by prominent ribs, with intervening broad deep furrows, the number being variable, from six to eight. The joints are invested with nearly cylindrical sheaths, which are quite loose, being almost twice the diameter of the stem in the upper parts of the plant; the lower sheaths are smaller and rather more funnel-shaped. The sheaths terminate in as many acute wedge-shaped teeth as there are ridges on the stem; they are pale-coloured, tipped with black or dark brown, and have membranous margins.



The stems are usually, except at the base, furnished with whorls of numerous simple branches, the number of the branches generally corresponding with the furrows of the stem. These are slender, four- or five-ribbed, and their sheaths set nearly close, and terminate in pale brown lance-shaped teeth, having a membranous border.

In this species, when a section of the stem is examined, it shows a series of prominent ridges on the outer face; just within these, and over against the furrows, occur a circle of moderate sized cavities; and alternating with these, and near the inner margin, is a series of much smaller circular cavities. The central cavity of the stem is comparatively very small, not very much larger than the series of openings near the outer surface. The resemblance is considerable between its section and that of *E. arvense*.

The fructification is a blunt oblong cone, more than an inch long, terminating the main stem, and supported on a stalk about equal to its own length above the uppermost sheath. The whorls of scales in the mature cone are quite separated, and expose the white spore-cases attached to the margin. The scales in this species exceed a hundred in number. The fructification is mature about June.

Besides the more usual form just described, there are

some curious variations to which this plant is liable. One of the most remarkable has been called the variety *poly-stachion*. It is remarkable in having more or less of the branches of the two upper whorls terminating in cones of fructification; the usual habit of the plant being to produce only one cone, and that on the central stem. The cones produced by the branches are, we believe, always much smaller than the ordinary cone of fructification produced by the main stem, and they are darker-coloured and more compact. It has been suggested, that the production of these lateral fructifications is accidental, owing to the destruction of the top of the main stem, but this explanation is quite insufficient, since they are sometimes produced along with the central head, which moreover varies when accompanied by them, being sometimes of the usual size, and sometimes reduced in size like the lateral heads. The lateral heads are usually later in their appearance than the central ones. Occasionally we have seen some of the branches of the lowest whorl become elongated, and terminate in one of these small cones.

Another form is called *nudum*, and a very similar variety is sometimes called *alpinum*. There appears to be no advantage in attempting to distinguish these, both being de-

pauperated forms, depending, no doubt, on the circumstances of their growth. They differ from the ordinary plant in being altogether smaller, the height ranging from two to four or five inches, the lower part of the stems being decumbent, and the whole stem almost devoid of branches; a few being developed only at their very base. In some states, this form has much resemblance to the prostrate *E. variegatum*, but is distinguishable by means of its sheaths and fructification.

The variety, or form, called *polystachion*, is probably rather accidental than constant, and is to be regarded as the result of peculiar and changeable circumstances which may influence its growth. The variety *nudum*, or *alpinum*, seems clearly a depauperization of the plant, either through elevation or lack of food, both producing the result of a dwarf stunted growth. We have had no opportunity of testing their constancy in cultivation, neither are we aware of any experiments having been made on this point, but we should expect they would both revert to the common form under the influences of domestication.

EQUISETUM SYLVATICUM, *Linnaeus*.—The Wood Horsetail.  
(Plate XX. fig. 3.)

Perhaps this may be called the most beautiful of the



*Equisetums*; certainly it is extremely elegant in almost all stages of its growth, and perhaps never more so than shortly after the fertile stems, with their fructification still perfect, have begun to develop their lateral branches. Later in the season, these branches, which have from the first a pendent tendency, droop around with exquisite grace on all sides. Mr. Newman, in recording his impressions on seeing it growing luxuriantly on a wooded hill-side near Loch Tyne, observes:—"Each stem had attained its full development, and every pendulous branch its full length and elegance. Altogether I could have fancied it a magic scene, created by the fairies for their especial use and pleasure, and sacred to the solemnization of their moon-lit revels. It was a forest in miniature, and a forest of surpassing beauty. It is impossible to give an adequate idea of such a scene, either by language or illustration."

But descending to sober realities.—The creeping underground stem of this Wood Horsetail is, like that of the others, dark-coloured and branched, and produces from its joints the slender fibrous roots which draw up nourishment to the plant. The above-ground stems are erect, and, in a certain sense, those of them which produce fructification, and those which are barren, are similar, except as

regards this one point. Their resemblance consists in both growing up at the same time, and both putting out whorls of deflexed branches, less numerous certainly on the fertile stems; but in other respects they differ, as, for instance, in the growth of the apices of the fronds. The fertile ones, terminating in a catkin which soon perishes, become blunt-topped, while the barren ones continue to elongate at the point and so become somewhat pyramidal. The barren stems are also more slender than the fertile ones, and have less inflated sheaths. It will thus appear, that this species, in its habit of growth, holds a middle rank between that group in which the fertile and barren stems are successive and quite dissimilar, and that group in which they are simultaneous and present no appreciable difference of structure. Something of the same kind occurs in *E. umbrosum*, as will be found noticed under that species.

The fertile stems, when they first shoot up, are almost quite simple, and a few of them remain so, perfecting their cone-like head, and then perishing. More usually, by the time the catkin has become fully grown, the whorls of branches from the upper joints will be seen protruded to the length of from half an inch to an inch or rather more. Two, three, or four, rarely more, whorls of branches are thus produced

from the uppermost joints of the stem, and above these the oblong-ovate blunt cone is seated on a bare stalk-like portion of the stem, one to two inches long. The stems are round, succulent, pale-coloured, with about twelve slender ridges, and corresponding shallow furrows, nearly smooth, the siliceous particles which coat the surface being too minute to impart much roughness. The sheaths are large and loose, and are divided at the margin into three or four bluntish lobes; their lower half or tubular portion is pale green, their upper half or lobes bright russet; they have an equal number of ribs, with the ribs on the stem. The slender branches, which are deflexed, grow to about a couple of inches in length, and produce from their joints a series of secondary branches, which grow from about half an inch to an inch in length. The average height of the fertile stems is about one foot.

The barren stems are more slender and less succulent than the others; they also produce more numerous whorls of branches. These grow from fifteen to eighteen inches high, and are ribbed like the others, only somewhat more prominently. The sheaths fit closer than those of the fertile stems, but in colour and in the division of their margin they resemble them exactly. The whorls of branches



are very dense, being compoundly branched. The side branches, which measure about four inches in length, are constantly branched at every joint with a whorl of branchlets averaging two inches in length, and sometimes these branchlets put out another series of short branches. The outline of the frond would be nearly pyramidal, were it not that the extreme point becomes so slender as to be unable to retain itself erect; the lateral branches are all drooping or deflexed, and hence the elegant appearance of the full-grown fronds. The ultimate branches are three-ribbed, which gives them a triangular form; their joints terminate in three long pointed teeth, one of the ribs extending undivided to the apex of each tooth. The teeth are of the same colour as the branch.

The section of the stem shows a series of shallow ridges and furrows; opposite the latter a ring of largish cavities; and alternating with these on the inner side, another ring of very minute cavities, these latter again alternating with a circle of angular cavities close to the inner margin of the tube. The central cavity measures about half the diameter.

The fructification is an oblong-ovate cone-like head, consisting of eighty or more pale brown peltate scales ranged in whorls, and to which white spore-cases are attached.

These, on bursting, disperse a great number of greenish-coloured spores.

This species grows naturally in moist shady woods; and though local, owing apparently to the conditions necessary to its growth, namely, shade and moisture combined in a peculiar way, it is, nevertheless, a widely distributed plant, and can hardly be considered as uncommon throughout the United Kingdom. Its fertile stems are in perfection about the middle of April, and its barren stems in June.

EQUISETUM TELMATEIA, *Ehrhart.*—The Great Horsetail, or Great Water Horsetail, of some; Great Mud Horsetail of others. (Plate XX. fig. 2.)

This is one of those species in which the ordinary fertile and the barren stems are perfectly dissimilar, the former being short and quite simple, the latter tall and compoundly branched. Occasionally a third sort of stem is produced, late in the season, which may be called a kind of compromise between the two. Mr. Newman describes such stems as reaching maturity about August, and bearing a very small proportion to the exclusively barren or fertile stems. They are smaller, though with longer joints, have shorter, less spreading sheaths, and bear catkins which are smaller than usual. This state of the plant has been



attributed to drought; and seems to be one of those occasional and inconstant variations to which plants are liable, as they are influenced by the external circumstances of soil or climate, or the peculiarities of the seasons.

The barren stems of this species are very stately objects when in a luxuriant condition of growth. They grow erect, and are from six to seven feet or more in height, clothed nearly to the bottom with spreading proximate whorls, those on the stouter parts consisting of thirty to forty branches, which are sometimes again branched. The upper whorls have many fewer branches. The whorls are most crowded towards the top of the stem, and there also the branches are about the full length—six or eight inches; lower down the stem the branches become shorter, and the whorls more distant. The stems measure about an inch and a half in diameter at the stoutest part, and from this point decrease upwards, becoming very slender at the point. The surface is smooth, with mere indications of about thirty faint lines extending into the sheaths, and there becoming more apparent. The sheaths set close to the stem, or nearly so, and are half an inch long, green below, with a dark brown ring at top, and divided at the margin into slender bristly teeth, about half an inch long, dark brown, with paler membranous



edges ; the teeth frequently adhere together at the summit in twos and threes. The branches have eight or ten ribs united in pairs, and their sheaths terminate in four or five teeth, each extended into a slender black bristle, and having two denticulated ribs. The branches very frequently produce a series of two to five secondary branches at their second joints. The colour of the main stem is very pale, scarcely tinged with green, that of the branches a delicate green. The sheaths of the branches, in this and some other species, furnish excellent marks for discrimination.

The fertile stem is erect, simple, from nine inches to a foot or more high, succulent, pale brown, and smooth. From each of the numerous joints arises a large loose funnel-shaped sheath, the upper ones being largest ; they are distinctly striated, and terminate in thirty to forty long, slender, and, according to Hooker, two-ribbed, teeth. The sheaths are pale greenish-brown below, darker brown above. The catkins are large, between two and three inches long ; the scales, often numbering four hundred, are arranged in whorls, of which the lower ones are usually very distinct. The scales and spore-cases resemble those of the allied kinds.

A section of the barren stem of this species shows an outer surface without ridges and furrows, and in the very narrow

cylinder of the stem occur two circles of cavities, the outer one consisting of large openings, those of the inner minute, and alternating with the larger. The central cavity is very large, the tissue of the stem being reduced to a very narrow ring.

This is a widely-dispersed and rather common plant, occurring on moist banks and in muddy places, by the sides of streams and the margins of muddy pools. The nature of the soil would seem to be of small importance provided it has its necessary degree of moisture, for it is recorded as occurring both in sandy and in clayey soils, as well as in muddy pools. It is frequent in Ireland; and is found both in Scotland and Wales.

EQUISETUM UMBROSUM, *Willdenow*.—The Shady Horsetail.

This species of Horsetail was formerly named *E. Drummondii* by Sir W. J. Hooker, after Mr. T. Drummond, who first discovered it as a native of Britain, but it proves to be the same which Willdenow had previously called *E. umbrosum*. It is a very interesting and distinct plant, intermediate in its general characteristics between *E. arvense* and *E. sylvaticum*, but perfectly distinct from both.

From its long, dark-coloured, creeping, underground stem are produced, at the joints, whorls of slender fibrous roots,

and from buds organized at the same points arise the aerial stems. These are quite dissimilar in their appearance, some being short, quite simple, and terminating in a cone-like head of spore-cases; others being without fructification, taller, and producing several whorls of long, crowded, slender branches; whilst a third kind, of 'common though not constant occurrence,' produce whorls of branches and cones also. In the production of these three kinds of stems it serves to connect, through *E. sylvaticum*, that group in which the fertile and barren stems are successive and altogether unlike, with that in which any of the stems indifferently—at least as to external appearances—bear the fructification, all being of similar habit.

The fertile stems grow about six inches high, and are quite branchless; they are of a pale yellowish-green, having numerous joints, the large loose funnel-shaped sheaths produced at these points, almost covering the stem, as usually described and figured, but in our specimens they are much less crowded, a space of from half an inch to an inch occurring between the adjoining sheaths. These sheaths are still paler-coloured than the stem, often almost white, with a dark ring below the teeth, which are awl-shaped, pale brown, with pale-coloured membranous margins; the teeth are



about twenty—from twelve to twenty—in number, equalling the ribs on the sheath. These fertile stems are very slightly striated.

The barren stems grow erect to the height of eighteen inches or more, and have their surface disposed in about twenty sharp ridges, with corresponding furrows, the ridges being coated with prominent siliceous warty particles, so that the stems become very rough. The few lower joints are without branches, but in all the upper part of the stem they produce whorls of from ten to sixteen branches, which are simple, and at first drooping, but eventually take a spreading or slightly ascending direction. The sheaths of these barren stems are much smaller than those of the fertile, less funnel-shaped, and more closely set to the stem, and their teeth are also fewer, shorter, and blunter; but in respect of colour they do not materially differ. The branches, which are slender, and about four inches long, are three- or four-ribbed, and have loose sheaths, which terminate in three or four short, acute, membranous-edged, faintly brown-tipped teeth; the ribs of the stem extend upwards into the teeth, one entering each, but they do not quite reach the apex.

The fructification forms a moderate-sized, terminal, oval, cone-like head; at first sessile in the uppermost sheath, but

becoming elevated on a short stalk. The scales are from forty to fifty in number, and are of a pale brown colour, bearing numerous whitish spore-cases.

The branched fertile stems have their sheaths smaller than the simple fertile ones, but larger than the barren ones. Several of the uppermost joints produce whorls of branches, and the stem is terminated by a cone of fructification. In these cases, however, the number of branches is less than that produced by the ordinary barren stems, and the cone is smaller than those produced by the ordinary fertile stems. In fact, the parts seem intermediate.

The section of the stem of this species is very different from that of any other, though having most resemblance to those of *E. arvense* and *E. sylvaticum*. The exterior shows a series of sharp ridges with angular furrows; the central cavity rather exceeds a third of the whole diameter; the cylinder of the stem is then pierced by three circles of cavities—one of longish oblong openings opposite the furrows, one of minute pores exterior to these and opposite the ridges, and another of minute pores on their inner side also opposite the ridges.

Probably this species is tolerably plentiful in moist shady woods, which are the situations it affects, but it has as yet

been met with only in a limited number of localities in Ireland, Scotland, and the north of England.

EQUISETUM VARIEGATUM, *Weber and Mohr*.—The Variegated Rough Horsetail.

This species is found on the banks of rivers and lakes, and in sandy places near the sea. There is considerable variation among the plants classed under this name, and met with in these different localities, the differences appearing to be permanent under cultivation, but we have not yet sufficient evidence to treat them as distinct species. We, therefore, include as varieties or forms of *variegatum*, the dwarf procumbent plant sometimes called *E. arenarium*, and the tall stout erect form which has been named *E. Wilsoni*.

This is one of the species whose stems are all similar, and almost quite unbranched. It extends by means of a widely creeping underground stem, rooting in whorls like the other species, and producing numerous above-ground stems, often springing from joints in such close proximity, that they appear in dense tufts. Though so numerously branched just beneath or at the surface of the soil, it is not usual that any branches are produced on the exposed part of the stems, but this sometimes does occur, such branches not growing in whorls, but springing singly from the joints, and having



much similarity to the stem itself; it is the erect form of the species, chiefly, which thus becomes branched. The stems grow about a foot high, and, in what is taken as the typical plant, their surface is very rough, and impressed with from four to ten furrows, with alternating, rather prominent ridges, each ridge margined on both sides, with a line of minute siliceous points, which give it the appearance of being grooved, and impart the peculiar roughness to the stems. The sheaths are slightly enlarged towards their margin, ribbed like the stem, green in the lower part, black above, and terminating in a fringe of black teeth, equalling the ribs in number; in form ovate, with a broad white membranous border, and tipped by a deciduous bristle. Sometimes the contrast between the black ring and teeth, and the white border to the latter, is very conspicuous.

A certain number of the stems, usually the most vigorous, terminate in a cone of fructification. This is small, elliptic, crowned by a prominent point or apiculus. It is usually black, and sessile in the uppermost sheath, but sometimes elevated on a short stalk. All the stalked cones we have seen have been much paler in colour than the sessile ones. The scales are about twenty in number, and the spore-cases are whitish.

The section of the stem shows a small central cavity, an exterior surface of rather prominent ridges, each channelled so as to form two projecting angles, and a circle of moderate-sized cavities occurring about the centre of the tissues.

Insensibly merging into the form just described appears to be another, that sometimes called *E. arenarium*, which, in its extreme state, is smaller and more slender, its stems always procumbent, and not having more than six furrows; in this form the teeth of the sheaths are said to be wedge-shaped, but we do not detect any differences in respect to the teeth between specimens having the erect and the prostrate habit of growth.

Another form, which is perhaps at least a permanent variety, and may prove to be specifically distinct, is the plant called *E. Wilsoni* by Mr. Newman. With this we are entirely unacquainted, except through books, in which it is described as being stouter, taller—three feet high—and smoother than the larger form of *E. variegatum*. The section of its stem also differs materially; the central cavity and the ring of cavities occurring in the cylinder of the stem being much larger, and the latter differing in form from those of *E. variegatum*. This variety grows in water, at Mucruss, in the immediate vicinity of the Lakes of Kil-

larney. The stems are generally simple, but sometimes sparingly branched; they have about ten furrows, with broad intermediate ridges, on which the siliceous particles are far less prominent, so that the stems are not nearly so rough as in the allied *E. variegatum*, *Mackayi*, &c. The sheaths are scarcely larger than the stem, and are entirely green, except a narrow, black, sinuous ring at the margin; the teeth are short, generally blunt, and have obscure membranous margins. No mention is made of the deciduous bristle which occurs in the allied plants. The cone is small, black, terminal, and apiculate, and, as occurs in the allied kinds, its sheath is larger and looser than the rest, the teeth also longer, and their membranous edges dilated and conspicuous. Such is the substance of Mr. Newman's account of it in his 'History of British Ferns.'

The present species is rather a local plant, but is widely dispersed in the three kingdoms, the larger forms growing on the margins of lakes, canals, rivers, ditches, &c., the smaller prostrate examples occurring on the sandy sea-coasts.

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The *Equisetums* appear to submit readily to cultivation; at least we have found no difficulty in inducing those of



which we have from time to time procured the subterranean stems, to grow with freedom. The plan we have adopted has been to pot them in loamy soil, and simply to place the pots in a cold frame, among a collection of hardy Ferns; or, in the case of some of the aquatic species, to sink the pots just beneath the surface of a tank of water.

There are, it should be remarked, two sets of *Equisetums*, which may be called the evergreen and the deciduous groups; and this is a distinction of some importance in reference to their cultivation. Under the head of evergreen should be classed the "rough" group, consisting of *E. hyemale*, *Mackayi*, and *variegatum*. All the remaining species come under the head of deciduous, by which is meant that the fronds die down annually in autumn, and are renewed from the underground stems in spring.

The evergreen species are desirable plants for damp, shady rock-work, requiring no peculiar care or culture; and though they cannot lay claim to any considerable elegance of growth or habit, yet, from their peculiar form and character, they must be looked upon as interesting plants, no less for their own sakes, than for the mere pictorial effect which their distinct appearance may help to bring out in such situations.

Of the deciduous kinds most desirable for a similar purpose, we should select *E. sylvaticum* and *E. umbrosum*; these being among the most elegant of the race, and of moderate size. Both of them would require shade, but nothing else beyond what well constructed rock-work would supply.

Perhaps the most interesting way of cultivating these plants would be as a group on a shady border, or in a separate bed. In damp cool soil they would be certain to succeed. The smaller delicate sorts, such as the procumbent *E. variegatum*, should be rather elevated between three or four rough stones, over which it would hang; and for the aquatic species, earthenware pans might be sunk, and these, half-filled with mud, and the remainder with water, would provide all that would be necessary for their well-being.

All the other species would grow in the ordinary soil, provided it were sufficiently moist and cool in summer; but the rambling propensities of the underground stems should be checked by planting them in pots sunk in the ground.

The raising of the *Equisetums* from the spores, too, would be very interesting employment, and withal very instructive. The spores are very curious bodies, of roundish or somewhat

oval form, having four elastic filaments, thickened at the ends, coiled around them. These, when the spore has become ripe, unroll; and their elasticity, no doubt, contributes to burst the case in which the spores are contained, as well as to assist in the dispersion of these minute reproductive bodies. They are, indeed, so irritable, that a change of temperature or moisture, such as that produced by breathing on the spores, is sufficient to produce this forcible uncoiling. The spores themselves are very interesting microscopic objects; indeed, it is only under a high magnifying power that their nature can be examined.

The germination of the spores has been made the subject of experiment by several inquirers, whose observations have been published. Agardh states, that from three to fourteen days after the spores are sown, they send down a thread-like transparent root somewhat thickened at the end, and protrude a confervoid, cylindrical, obtuse, articulated, torulose thread, which is either two-lobed or simple at the apex. Some days after this, several branches are produced, and become agglutinated together, forming a body resembling a bundle of confervoid threads, each of which pushes out its own root. Bischoff finds these confervoid threads go on growing and combining until a considerable cellular



mass is formed. Then, this mode of development ceases, and a young bud is formed, which produces the stem of an *Equisetum*, at once completely organized, with its air-cells, its central cavity, and its sheaths, the first of which is formed before the elongation of the stem, out of the original cellular matter.

To watch the minute atoms thus springing into life, developing by degrees their tiny stems, and gaining strength and bulk day by day until they reach maturity, could hardly fail, one would think, to lead a sensitive mind to pure and wholesome thought, and to call up the contemplation of the wise and beneficent plans and the all-sufficiency of the Creator, by whose ordaining providence life interminably renewable had thus been made to spring from the dust-like spore, as well as to produce a just appreciation of the uncertainty and insufficiency of human agency; for though man may plant and water, yet it is God alone that giveth the increase.

LOCAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE BRITISH FERNS, CLUB-MOSSES,  
PEPPERWORTS, AND HORSETAILS.

THE limits of this little volume will neither allow of a very complete nor very detailed record of the situations in which the various Ferns and Fern allies are severally found to grow; nor is it indeed necessary that their habitats should be so fully and minutely stated in a book such as the present. Instead, therefore, of attempting a full enumeration of the localities where they have been found, we shall make a selection, with the special view of indicating the districts in which the various kinds have been known to occur, and to which those who may desire to find them should more especially direct their attention. The facts thus selected will also afford some insight into the geographical range of the species in the British Isles.

Such a record of facts, even though thus abridged, would, however, have a very chaotic character if it were not systematized in some way. The most obvious modes of arrangement seem to be the alphabetical and the geographical; and

of these we prefer the latter, under the impression that the former would be far less suggestive and useful.

In reference to this subject it has been well remarked by Mr. Watson, in his 'Cybele Britannica,' that the county divisions are too numerous, and the ancient political divisions too few, to express, with anything like completeness and precision, the actual distribution of species; the first, because our information is imperfect; the second, because the areas are too extensive. He has, therefore, in treating of the more extended subject of the distribution of the flowering plants, proposed another set of divisions, of intermediate extent, which he calls provinces; and as Mr. Watson is to be considered our standard authority on this question, we shall give his provinces, adding, however, Ireland, which he has omitted, to our list, and severing the western from the northern isles, as a connecting link with that country. We shall thus have the United Kingdom and Ireland divided in the following manner:—

Commencing at the south coast of England, a mesial line is traced northwards, into the Highlands of Scotland, the line corresponding with the boundaries of counties, and being traced in that course which best divides the counties whose rivers flow to the east coast, from those whose waters



are emptied into the western ocean. These two longitudinal divisions are subdivided transversely into provinces or groups of counties, which together constitute the basin of a principal river, or have some other physical peculiarity in common. The mesial line is not continued northward of Inverness, where Scotland becomes very narrow; and the portion of Inverness itself, eastward of Loch Erricht, is united with the East Highland province. In like manner, the extreme north of Lancashire is united with the Lake province. The accessible information with reference to Ireland is very imperfect.

The facts embodied in the following pages are derived from the principal published lists of localities (among which it is hardly needful to say that the 'Phytologist' and Mr. Newman's 'History' stand pre-eminent in this respect); from the habitats preserved in the herbariums of the Botanical Societies of Edinburgh and London (the contents of the former having been obligingly communicated by Mr. Lawson); from our own herbarium and observations; and from several local lists kindly furnished by the gentlemen whose names are quoted. We are also indebted to H. C. Watson, Esq., for many valuable notes, corrections, and suggestions, by the aid of which our list is rendered much

more complete and perfect than it would otherwise have been.

Our space would not permit the insertion of authorities, except in a few rare instances, for habitats which have been previously published. *B. S. E.* refers to the Herbarium of the Edinburgh Botanical Society; *B. S. L.* to that of the London Society. The use of the signs [ ] implies some doubt as to the correctness of the enclosed statements.

The names given to the Provinces, and the counties they severally include, are shown below. The arrangement of the Ferns is alphabetical, as in the preceding descriptions; and they are followed by the Club-Mosses, &c.

1. PENINSULA.—Cornwall, Devon, Somerset.
2. CHANNEL.—Hants, Sussex, Dorset, Wilts.
3. THAMES.—Herts, Middlesex, Kent, Surrey, Berks, Oxford, Bucks, Essex.
4. OUSE.—Huntingdon, Bedford, Suffolk, Norfolk, Cambridge, Northampton.
5. SEVERN.—Warwick, Gloucester, Monmouth, Hereford, Worcester, Stafford, Salop.
6. S. WALES.—Radnor, Brecon, Glamorgan, Carmarthen, Pembroke, Cardigan.



7. N. WALES.—Anglesea, Denbigh, Flint, Montgomery, Merioneth, Carnarvon.
8. TRENT.—Leicester, Rutland, Lincoln, Notts, Derby.
9. MERSEY.—Cheshire, Lancashire.
10. HUMBER.—York.
11. TYNE.—Durham, Northumberland.
12. LAKES.—Westmoreland, Cumberland, and N. of Lancashire. Isle of Man.
13. W. LOWLANDS.—Dumfries, Kircudbright, Wigton, Ayr, Renfrew, Lanark.
14. E. LOWLANDS.—Peebles, Selkirk, Roxburgh, Berwick, Haddington, Edinburgh, Linlithgow.
15. E. HIGHLANDS.—Stirling, Clackmannan, Kinross, Fife, Perth, Forfar, Kincardine, Aberdeen, Banff, Nairn, Elgin or Moray including the N. E. of Inverness or that part E. of Loch Erricht.
16. W. HIGHLANDS.—Inverness W. of Loch Erricht, Argyle, Dumbarton, and the Isles adjacent from Bute and Arran to Skye.
17. N. HIGHLANDS.—Ross, Cromarty, Sutherland, Caithness.
18. N. ISLES.—Orkney, Shetland.
19. W. ISLES.—Outer Hebrides.



20. ULSTER (N.).—Antrim, Londonderry, Donegal, Tyrone, Down, Armagh, Monaghan, Fermanagh, Cavan.
  21. CONNAUGHT (W.).—Leitrim, Sligo, Galway, Roscommon.
  22. LEINSTER (E.).—Longford, Westmeath, Meath, Louth, Dublin, Kildare, King's, Queen's, Wicklow, Wexford, Carlow, Kilkenny.
  23. MUNSTER (S.).—Waterford, Tipperary, Clare, Limerick, Cork, Kerry.
  24. CHANNEL ISLES.—Guernsey, Jersey.
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ADIANTUM CAPILLUS-VENERIS, *Linnaeus*.

PENINSULA.—Carclew; on the east side of Carrach Gladden, between St. Ives and Hayle, in low dripping caves and on rocks by the coast, Cornwall. Ilfracombe; Watermouth; Brinham; Mewstone Bay, Devonshire. [Clevedon, Somersetshire.]

SEVERN.—[Staffordshire.]

S. WALES.—Dunraven; East Aberthaw, *F. Brent*; Swansea, *J. Riley*, *B.S.E.* (probably an error); Port Kirig; Barry Island, Glamorganshire.

TRENT.—[Derbyshire.]

HUMBER.—[Yorkshire.]

LAKES.—Isle of Man.

E. HIGHLANDS.—[Banks of the Carron, Kincardineshire, according to Professor Beattie, but probably erroneous.]

W. HIGHLANDS.—[Argyleshire. Arran.]

CONNAUGHT.—Lough Bulard, near Urisbeg; Roundstone, Connemara, Galway; Arran Isles.

MUNSTER.—Cahir Conree, near Tralee, Kerry.

#### ALLOSORUS CRISPUS, *Bernhardi*.

PENINSULA.—Exmoor near Challicombe, Devonshire, *N. Ward, B.S.E.* Simmons bath, Somersetshire. (Perhaps these two descriptions refer to one locality.)

SEVERN.—Titterstone Cleve hill, Shropshire. Malvern hills, Worcestershire. ["Stowe" (? Staffordshire), *B.S.E.*]

S. WALES.—Glamorganshire. Cardiganshire.

N. WALES.—Cery-y-Druidion, Denbighshire. Dolgelly; Cader Idris, Merionethshire. Breiddin hills, Montgomeryshire. Cwm-Idwal; Clogwyn-du-Yrarddu, Snowdon; Glyder-vawr; Mynidd-Mawr; Llanberis; and elsewhere in Carnarvonshire.

TRENT.—Fairfield; Chinley Hills, Derbyshire. [Rutland.]

MERSEY.—Tag's Ness near Macclesfield, Cheshire. Lancaster; Cliviger near Todmorden; Fo-edge near Bury, Lancashire.



HUMBER.—Settle; Saddleworth; Fountain's Fell; Halifax; Wensley Dale; Cronkley Scar; Ingleborough, &c., Yorkshire.

TYNE.—Falcon Clints, Teesdale, Durham. Cheviot above Langley Ford; Crag Lake; Haltwhistle, Northumberland.

LAKES.—Ambleside; Casterton; Morland; and the hill-sides of Westmoreland, abundant. Borrowdale; Winlatta, *W. Christy, B.S.E.*; Keswick; Skiddaw; Helvellyn; Grassmere; Scawfell; Martindale, &c., Cumberland. Conistone, Lancashire.

W. LOWLANDS.—Dumfries; Jardine Hall; George Town; Queensbury hill; Rae hill; hills above Loch Skew; Morton hills; Moffat-dale, *P. Gray*; Dumfriesshire. Sandy hills and Douglass hall, Colvend; Carsethorn, *P. Gray*; Criffel, Kircudbrightshire. Cuff-hill and Beith, Ayrshire. Renfrewshire.

E. LOWLANDS.—Eildon hills; Winchope, *Walter Scott, B.S.E.*, Roxburghshire. South bank of the Whiteadder, Berwickshire. [Edinburghshire.]

E. HIGHLANDS.—Fifeshire, *T. B. Bell, B.S.E.* Ben Lawers; Killin; Glen Tilt; Blair Athol, &c., Perthshire. Clova mountains; Debris on the Sidlaw hills, *G. Lawson, B.S.E.*; Glen Isla, *W. Brand, B.S.E.*, Forfarshire. Glen Callater, *W. Christy, B.S.E.*; Castleton; Loch-na-garr, *H. M. Balfour*, Aberdeenshire. Kingussie, *A. Rutherford, B.S.E.*;



- Stone walls near Dalwhinnie, and on the neighbouring mountains, Morayshire.
- W. HIGHLANDS.—Ben Nevis; Gnarrow; Ben Alder, Western Inverness-shire. Argyleshire. Loch Lomond, Dumbartonshire. Ben-na-Caillich, Skye. Isle of Mull.
- N. HIGHLANDS.—Ross-shire. Sutherlandshire.
- W. ISLES.—Roddal, Harris.
- ULSTER.—Carrickfergus, Antrim. Sleive Bignian; Mourne mountains, Down.
- LEINSTER.—Carlingford mountain, Louth.

ASPLENIUM ADIANTUM-NIGRUM; *Linnaeus*.

- PENINSULA.—Cornwall. Devonshire. Somersetshire.
- CHANNEL.—Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Dorsetshire. Wiltshire. Sussex.
- THAMES.—Hertfordshire. Middlesex. Kent. Surrey. Berkshire. Buckinghamshire. Oxfordshire. Essex.
- OUSE.—Bedfordshire. Suffolk. Norfolk. Cambridgeshire. Northamptonshire.
- SEVERN.—Warwickshire. Gloucestershire. Herefordshire. Worcestershire. Staffordshire. Shropshire.
- S. WALES.—Glamorganshire. Carmarthenshire. Pembrokeshire. Cardiganshire.
- N. WALES.—Anglesea. Denbighshire. Merionethshire. Flintshire. Carnarvonshire.

- TRENT.—Leicestershire. Rutland. Nottinghamshire. Derbyshire.
- MERSEY.—Cheshire. Lancashire.
- HUMBER.—Yorkshire.
- TYNE.—Durham. Northumberland.
- LAKES.—Westmoreland. Cumberland. North Lancashire.
- W. LOWLANDS.—Dumfriesshire. Kircudbrightshire. Ayrshire. Lanarkshire. Renfrewshire.
- E. LOWLANDS.—Roxburghshire. Berwickshire. Edinburghshire. Linlithgowshire.
- E. HIGHLANDS.—Clackmannanshire. Kinross-shire. Fifeshire. Perthshire. Forfarshire. Kincardineshire. Aberdeenshire. Banffshire. Morayshire. Nairnshire.
- W. HIGHLANDS.—Inverness-shire. Argyleshire. Dumbartonshire. Isles of Islay, Cantyre, Arran, and Iona. Ailsa Craig.
- N. HIGHLANDS.—Cromarty. Sutherlandshire. Caithness.
- N. ISLES.—Orkney.
- W. ISLES.—Tarbet, Harris.
- ULSTER.—Antrim. Down (the acute form).
- CONNAUGHT.—Galway. Arran Isles.
- LEINSTER.—Meath.
- MUNSTER.—Kerry (the acute form). Cork (also the acute form at Tralee).
- CHANNEL ISLES.—Jersey.



ASPLENIUM FONTANUM, *R. Brown.*

THAMES.—On an old garden-wall at Tooting, Surrey, *D. Haigh.*  
 (The wall has recently been cleaned, and the plants perhaps destroyed.)

TRENT.—Matlock, Derbyshire, *H. Shepherd.*

LAKES.—[Formerly at Wybourn, Westmoreland; or Wiborn, Cumberland.]

E. HIGHLANDS.—Shady rocks near Stonehaven, Kincardineshire, *D. Hutcheson.*

ASPLENIUM GERMANICUM, *Weiss.*

N. WALES.—Rocks near Llanrwst (Bwlch-y-Rhyn), Denbighshire, *H. Wilson.*

LAKES.—Borrowdale, Cumberland, *H. E. Smith.*

E. LOWLANDS.—Rocks near Kelso on the Tweed, Roxburghshire.

E. HIGHLANDS.—Dunfermline, Fifeshire, *Dr. Dewar.* Stenton rock near Dunkeld, Perthshire.

ASPLENIUM LANCEOLATUM, *Hudson.*

PENINSULA.—St. Michael's mount, and other places about Penzance, abundant; very fine on rocks at Hot Point, and other stations near the Land's End; St. Ives, Cornwall. Morwell rocks, by the Tamar; by the Tavy; by the Plym;



near Cann Quarry; Brickland Monachorum; Tavistock; Salcombe; Torquay; Bickleigh vale, *W. S. Hore, B.S.E.*; Devonshire. Somersetshire.

CHANNEL.—High rocks, Tunbridge Wells, Sussex.

THAMES.—[Near Tunbridge Wells, Kent.] [Oxfordshire.]

SEVERN.—Pennant rocks, near Stapleton; Beechly; Oldbury and Court woods, Gloucestershire. [Shropshire.]

S. WALES.—Ramsay Island, Pembrokeshire. Glamorganshire.

N. WALES.—About Barmouth, Merionethshire. Tremadoc; Pwlheli; Beddgelert; about Aberglaslyn, Carnarvonshire. Near Llanrwst, Denbighshire.

HUMBER.—[Yorkshire.]

CHANNEL ISLES.—Guernsey. Jersey.

#### ASPLENIUM MARINUM, *Linnæus*.

PENINSULA.—Cornish coast generally, very fine at Lamorna. Dawlish; Ilfracombe; Salcombe; Torquay; Babbicombe; Teignmouth; Lynton, *N. B. Ward*; and other parts of Devonshire. Clevedon; Portishead, Somersetshire.

CHANNEL.—Isle of Portland; Purbeck; Lyme Regis, Dorsetshire. Isle of Wight, beyond Knowle towards Blackgang. Castle rock at Hastings, Sussex.

S. WALES.—Rocks by the Mumbles Lighthouse, Swansea; Dunraven; Neath; Oystermouth; Barry Island, &c., Glamorganshire. Cliffs between Tenby and Saundersfoot;

- Fishguard ; St. Davids ; St. Catherine's Island, &c., Pembrokeshire. Aberystwith and elsewhere, Cardiganshire.
- N. WALES.—Llanddwyn ; South Stack Lighthouse, Holyhead, &c., Anglesea. Towyn, Merionethshire. Carnarvon Castle ; Orme's head ; Bangor, Carnarvonshire.
- MERSEY.—Red Noses rocks, New Brighton, at the mouth of the Mersey ; Hilbre island, mouth of the Dee, Cheshire. Winwick stone-quarry near Warrington ; Newton ; near Liverpool ; rocks near Heysham, Lancashire.
- HUMBER.—Cliffs north of Scarborough, Yorkshire.
- TYNE.—Marsden rocks ; Black-hall dean, west of Hartlepool ; Teesdale, Durham. Howick, Northumberland, *T. Wilcke*. Holy Island, *B.S.E.* N. Durham.
- LAKES.—Sea cave near Silverdale, Westmoreland. Whitehaven ; St. Bee's head, Cumberland. Head of Morecambe bay, North Lancashire. Isle of Man.
- W. LOWLANDS.—Colvend cliffs, Kircudbrightshire, *P. Gray*. Port Patrick, Wigtonshire. Ayrshire.
- E. LOWLANDS.—Near Eyemouth, and elsewhere on the Berwickshire coast. Near Queensferry, Edinburghshire.
- E. HIGHLANDS.—Weems, and elsewhere on the coast of Fife-shire. Red Head, *A. Croall*, *B.S.E.* ; east of Auchmithie, *G. Lawson* ; Montrose ; Dysart, Forfarshire. Kincardineshire. Coast of Aberdeenshire. Morayshire.
- W. HIGHLANDS.—Isles of Bute, Islay, Cautyre, Arran, Staffa, Iona, and Skye ; Ailsa Craig.

N. HIGHLANDS.—Nigg, Ross-shire. Farr, Sutherlandshire, *B.S.E.*

Rocks near Wick ; near Thurso, Caithness, *T. Anderson.*

N. ISLES.—Hoy and Mainland, Orkney, *T. Anderson*, who found it growing on the inside of St. Magnus' Cathedral, from whence it is now eradicated by repairs.

W. ISLES.—Little Barve, Harris ; Sheant Isles.

ULSTER.—Newcastle, Down. Isle of Rathlin. Mullaghmore, Cavan.

CONNAUGHT.—Abundant along the coast.

LEINSTER.—Howth ; Killiney bay, *G. Lloyd, B.S.L.*, Dublin co.

MUNSTER.—Killarney ; Derrynane, &c., Kerry. Rocks on the south coast, Clonmel, Cork, *J. Sibbald*. Abundant along the coast.

CHANNEL ISLES.—Guernsey. Jersey.

#### ASPLENIUM RUTA-MURARIA, *Linnaeus.*

PENINSULA.—Cornwall. Devonshire. Somersetshire.

CHANNEL.—Dorsetshire. Wiltshire. Isle of Wight. Hampshire. Sussex.

THAMES.—Hertfordshire. Middlesex. Kent. Surrey. Berkshire. Buckinghamshire. Oxfordshire. Essex.

OUSE.—Suffolk. Norfolk. Cambridgeshire. Bedfordshire. Northamptonshire.

SEVERN.—Warwickshire. Gloucestershire. Herefordshire. Shropshire. Worcestershire. Staffordshire.



- S. WALES.—Glamorganshire. Carmarthenshire. Pembrokeshire.
- N. WALES.—Anglesea. Denbighshire. Merionethshire. Carnarvonshire.
- TRENT.—Leicestershire. Nottinghamshire. Derbyshire. Rutland.
- MERSEY.—Cheshire. Lancashire.
- HUMBER.—Yorkshire.
- TYNE.—Durham. Northumberland.
- LAKES.—Cumberland. Westmoreland.
- W. LOWLANDS.—Dumfriesshire. Kircudbrightshire. Renfrewshire. Lanarkshire.
- E. LOWLANDS.—Berwickshire. Edinburghshire. Linlithgowshire.
- E. HIGHLANDS.—Stirlingshire. Clackmannanshire. Fifeshire. Perthshire. Forfarshire. Kincardineshire. Aberdeenshire. Banffshire. Morayshire. Nairnshire.
- W. HIGHLANDS.—Argyleshire. Dumbartonshire. Ailsa Craig; Isles of Islay and Cantyre.
- N. HIGHLANDS.—Cromarty. Sutherlandshire. Caithness.
- N. ISLES.—Orkney.
- W. ISLES.—N. Uist. Harris. Lewis.
- CONNAUGHT.—Arran Isles. Galway.
- MUNSTER.—Cork.
- CHANNEL ISLES.—Jersey.

ASPLENIUM SEPTENTRIONALE, *Hull*.

PENINSULA.—Near Culbone on the borders of Somersetshire,  
*N. Ward*.

THAMES.—[Kent.]

N. WALES.—Llan Delhyla, near Llanrwst, Denbighshire. Craig  
Du near Llanberis; Llyn-y-cwm; Capel Curig; Carnedd  
Llewellyn, &c., Carnarvonshire.

HUMBER.—Ingleborough, Yorkshire.

TYNE.—Kyløe crags, Northumberland.

LAKES.—Honister crags; Scaw-fell; Patterdale; Keswick; ra-  
vine near Wastwater; Borrowdale; vale of Newlands,  
Cumberland. Ambleside, Westmoreland.

E. LOWLANDS.—Minto crags; Jedburgh, Roxburghshire. Ar-  
thur's Seat and other places in the neighbourhood of Edin-  
burgh.

E. HIGHLANDS.—Stenton rocks, near Dunkeld, Perthshire,  
where occurs a variety with wedge-shaped pinnules some-  
times mistaken for *A. germanicum*. [Forfarshire.]

N. ISLES.—[Orkney.]

ASPLENIUM TRICHOMANES, *Linnaeus*.

PENINSULA.—Cornwall; very fine in Raven's Hugo, *C. A. Johns*.  
Devonshire; the incised form is also found. Somersetshire.

CHANNEL.—Isle of Wight. Hampshire. Wiltshire. Dorset-  
shire. Sussex.



- THAMES.—Hertfordshire. Kent. Isle of Sheppey. Surrey.  
Buckinghamshire. Oxfordshire. Essex.
- OUSE.—Suffolk. Norfolk. Cambridgeshire. Bedfordshire.
- SEVERN.—Warwickshire. Gloucestershire. Herefordshire. Worcester-  
shire. Staffordshire. Shropshire.
- S. WALES.—Glamorganshire. Carmarthenshire. Pembroke.
- N. WALES.—Anglesea. Denbighshire. Montgomeryshire. Me-  
rionethshire. Carnarvonshire.
- TRENT.—Leicestershire. Nottinghamshire. Derbyshire. Rut-  
land.
- MERSEY.—Cheshire. Lancashire. The var. *incisum* is found at  
Kant Clough near Burnley.
- HUMBER.—Yorkshire.
- TYNE.—Durham. Northumberland.
- LAKES.—Westmoreland. Cumberland. Isle of Man.
- W. LOWLANDS.—Dumfriesshire, *P. Gray*. Kircudbrightshire,  
*P. Gray*. Renfrewshire. Lanarkshire.
- E. LOWLANDS.—Roxburghshire. Berwickshire. Edinburgh-  
shire. Linlithgowshire.
- E. HIGHLANDS.—Stirlingshire. Clackmannanshire. Fifeshire.  
Perthshire. Forfarshire. Kincardineshire. Aberdeenshire.  
Morayshire. Nairnshire.
- W. HIGHLANDS.—Argyleshire. Dumbartonshire. Isles of  
Islay and Cantyre.
- N. HIGHLANDS.—Ross-shire. Cromarty. Sutherlandshire.
- N. ISLES.—Orkney, *T. Anderson*.



W. ISLES.—Tarbet, Harris.

ULSTER.—Antrim.

CONNAUGHT.—Arran Isles. Galway. } Common in Ireland.

LEINSTER.

MUNSTER.—Cork. Kerry.

CHANNEL ISLES.—Jersey.

ASPLENIUM VIRIDE, *Hudson.*

SEVERN.—Ham Bridge, Worcestershire. Staffordshire.

S. WALES.—Brecon Beacon and Treastle Beacon, near Brecon ; Chapel-y-Fin ; rocks near Capel Colbren, Brecknockshire. Merthyr-Tydvil ; Cilhepste waterfall, near Pont Nedd Vechn ; Darran yr Ogof near Ystradgunlais, Glamorganshire.

N. WALES.—Cader Idris, Merionethshire. Cwm Idwal ; Twll-du ; Llyn-y-cwm ; Clogwyn-du-Yrarddu ; Clogwyn-y-Garnedd, *T. Butler* ; Carnarvonshire.

TRENT.—Buxton ; Cavedale ; Castleton, Derbyshire. Charley forest, Beacon hill, Leicestershire.

MERSEY.—Carr-edge, Cheshire. Dulesgate ; Staley, Lancashire.

HUMBER.—Settle ; Craven ; Ingleborough ; Gordale ; Widdal Fell, Wensley Dale ; Ogden Clough, near Halifax ; Reeth Moor, Swaledale ; and other parts of Yorkshire.

TYNE.—Falcon Clints, Teesdale ; Weardale, *W. C. Trevelyan*, Durham. Banks of the Irthing, Northumberland.

- LAKES.—Rocks above Patterdale; Kendall Fell, *W. Christy*, *B.S.E.*; Hutton Roof; Farlton; Arnside; Casterton Fell; Mazebeck Scar, Westmoreland. Ashness Gill; Borrow Force; Gilsland, Cumberland.
- W. LOWLANDS.—Bold Craig, near Moffat, *W. A. Little*; Grey Mare's Tail, *W. Stevens*, Dumfriesshire. Falls of the Clyde, Lanarkshire.
- E. HIGHLANDS.—Stirlingshire. Ben Chonzie, near Crieff; Blair Athol; Ben Lawers, Perthshire. Canlochen; Clova, Forfarshire, *A. Croall*, *B.S.E.* Cawdor woods, Nairnshire. Aberdeenshire.
- W. HIGHLANDS.—Inverness-shire. Dunoon, and other parts of Argyleshire. Ben Voirlich, Dumbartonshire. Ben More, Isle of Mull.
- N. HIGHLANDS.—Assynt, Sutherlandshire. Ross-shire.
- ULSTER.—Near Lough Eask, Donegal.
- CONNAUGHT.—Ben Bulbin, Sligo.
- MUNSTER.—Bandon, Cork. Turk mountain, Killarney, Kerry.

#### ATHYRIUM FILIX-FEMINA, *Roth.*

A common species, the distribution of which is very imperfectly recorded.

PENINSULA.—Trevenna (var. *convexum* as *rhaticum*), &c., Cornwall. Devonshire; also Salterton (a monstrous state,

approaching *latifolium*), *H. B. M. Harris, B.S.E.* Somersetsshire.

CHANNEL.—Isle of Wight. Hampshire. Dorsetshire. Wiltshire. Tunbridge Wells (var. *convexum*), *Miss Bower*, and elsewhere, Sussex.

THAMES.—Hertfordshire. Kent. Portnall Park Virginia Water and Shirley (var. *convexum*); Mayford (var. *molle*), and other parts of Surrey. Oxfordshire. Essex.

OUSE.—Suffolk. Norfolk. Cambridgeshire. Bedfordshire.

SEVERN.—Arbury Park (with the vars. *convexum* and *molle*), and in other parts of Warwickshire. Gloucestershire. Newport, Monmouthshire. Worcestershire. Staffordshire. Shrewsbury, &c., Shropshire (var. *convexum* as *irriguum*).

S. WALES.—Brecknockshire. Glamorganshire. Carmarthen-shire. Pembrokeshire.

N. WALES.—Anglesea. Denbighshire. Flintshire. Aber (var. *convexum* as *irriguum*), &c., Carnarvonshire.

TRENT.—Leicestershire. Nottinghamshire. Derbyshire. Rutland.

MERSEY.—Cheshire. Lancashire.

HUMBER.—Yorkshire; also Mickley Barrows (var. *convexum*).

TYNE.—Northumberland. Durham.

LAKES.—Keswick, Cumberland (with var. *latifolium*), *Miss Wright*. Westmoreland.

W. LOWLANDS.—Dumfriesshire. Kircudbrightshire. Renfrewshire. Lanarkshire.



- E. LOWLANDS.—Edinburghshire. Jedburgh, Roxburghshire  
(var. *convexum* as *irriguum*). Berwickshire.
- E. HIGHLANDS.—Clackmannanshire. Fifeshire. Ben Lomond,  
Stirlingshire. Sidlaw hills, and other parts of Forfarshire.  
Near Dalnacardoch (var. *convexum* as *irriguum*), *Dr. Graham*,  
*B.S.E.*, &c., Perthshire. Corymulzie Linn, Braemar (var.  
*crispum*), *W. C. Trevelyan*; also sea-cave near Aberdeen (var.  
*marinum*), *Dr. Dickie*; and elsewhere, Aberdeenshire.  
Banffshire. Morayshire.
- W. HIGHLANDS.—Inverness-shire. Argyleshire. Dumbarton-  
shire. Isles of Islay, Cantyre; Arran (var. *convexum*);  
Brodict (var. *molle*).
- N. HIGHLANDS.—Cromarty. Sutherlandshire. Caithness.
- N. ISLES.—Orkney, common, *T. Anderson*.
- W. ISLES.—N. Uist. Harris. Lewis.
- ULSTER.—The hill “Orah,” Antrim  
(var. *crispum*), *A. Smith*.
- CONNAUGHT.
- LEINSTER.—Wicklow (var. *multifidum*  
or *furcatum*), *D. Moore*.
- MUNSTER.—Cork. Kerry; also Mu-  
cruss, Killarney (var. *convexum* as  
*irriguum*).
- CHANNEL ISLES.—Jersey.

} Very common in Ireland.

BLECHNUM SPICANT, *Roth.*

- PENINSULA.—Cornwall. Devonshire. Somersetshire.
- CHANNEL.—Hampshire. Isle of Wight. Dorsetshire. Wiltshire. Sussex.
- THAMES.—Hertfordshire. Kent. Surrey. Middlesex. Berkshire. Oxfordshire. Essex.
- OUSE.—Suffolk. Norfolk. Cambridgeshire. Bedfordshire. Northamptonshire.
- SEVERN.—Warwickshire. Gloucestershire; Nailsworth (fronds partially fertile), *G. F. Playne*. Monmouthshire. Herefordshire. Worcestershire. Staffordshire. Shropshire.
- S. WALES.—Brecknockshire. Glamorganshire. Carmarthen-shire. Pembrokeshire.
- N. WALES.—Anglesea. Denbighshire. Flintshire. Merionethshire. Carnarvonshire.
- TRENT.—Leicestershire. Rutland. Lincolnshire. Nottinghamshire. Derbyshire.
- MERSEY.—Cheshire. Lancashire.
- HUMBER.—Yorkshire.
- TYNE.—Tanfield Dean (segments of barren frond cut), *T. Wilcke*. Blaydon Burn (segments bifid), *T. Wilcke*, Durham. Northumberland.
- LAKES.—Westmoreland. Cumberland. Conistone, Lancashir (fronds partially fertile), *Miss Beever*.



W. LOWLANDS.—Dumfriesshire. Kircudbrightshire. Renfrewshire. Lanarkshire.

E. LOWLANDS.—Roxburghshire. Berwickshire. Edinburghshire.

E. HIGHLANDS.—Clackmannanshire. Fifeshire. Kinross-shire. Perthshire. Forfarshire. Kincardineshire. Aberdeenshire. Banffshire. Morayshire. Inverness-shire.

W. HIGHLANDS.—W. Inverness-shire. Argyleshire. Dumbartonshire. Isles of Islay and Cantyre.

N. HIGHLANDS.—Ross-shire. Cromarty. Sutherlandshire. Caithness.

N. ISLES.—Orkney.

W. ISLES.—N. Uist. Harris. Lewis.

ULSTER.—Not likely to be absent from this province, but we do not find its occurrence mentioned.

CONNAUGHT.—Arran Isles.

LEINSTER.—Wicklow.

MUNSTER.—Cork. Clare.

CHANNEL ISLES.—Jersey.

### BOTRYCHIUM LUNARIA, *Linnaeus*.

PENINSULA.—Cardynham, Cornwall. Near Barnstaple; by the Dart; Haldown hill, Devonshire. Bath; King's Weston; Hampton Cliffs, &c., Somersetshire.

CHANNEL.—Titchborne; New Alresford; Petersfield; Somborne



near Winton; Hinton, &c., Hampshire. Luccomb; Shanklin, &c., Isle of Wight. Patching; Storrington; Croboro' Warren, &c., Sussex. Alderbury common; near Bath, within Wiltshire. Sturminster Newton, Dorsetshire.

THAMES.—Dartford; Chiselhurst; Foot's Cray, and the south part of Kent. Reigate; Shere; Albury; Dorking; Shirley; Highdown heath near Godalming; Farnham Park, Surrey. Shotover hill; Winchwood forest, Oxfordshire.

OUSE.—Oakley Westfield, Bedfordshire. Bury, Suffolk. Heveringham heath; Stratton heath; Seething, Norfolk. Little Linton; Balsham; Chippenham, Cambridgeshire. Halston heath; Would field, &c., Northamptonshire.

SEVERN.—Moxhall; near Coleshill Pool, Warwickshire. Gloucestershire. Duncumb and elsewhere, Herefordshire. Abberly hill; Oversley hill near Ancester; Stourbridge, Worcestershire. Cheadle; Farley, Staffordshire. Stollerton; Titterstone Clee hill; Ludlow, Shropshire.

S. WALES.—Glamorganshire.

N. WALES.—Anglesea. Wrexham, Denbighshire. Near Rodney's Pillar, Montgomeryshire. Penmaen Mawr, Carnarvonshire.

TRENT.—Rutland. Loughborough; Market Harborough; Ashby de la Zouch; Twycross, &c., Leicestershire. Lincolnshire. Sutton on Trent; Newstead; Clifton; Papplewick; Norton; Sherwood Forest, Nottingham. Buxton; Masson near Matlock, Derbyshire.

MERSEY.—Near Over; between Egremont and New Brighton; Macclesfield, &c., Cheshire. Chilburn, near Todmorden; Newton; Oldham; Bootle, &c., Lancashire.

HUMBER.—Teesdale; Cronckley Fell; Hambleton hills; Halifax; Richmond; Settle; Sheffield, and various other parts of Yorkshire.

TYNE.—Near Shewing Shields; Hexham; Horsley, *J. Bigge*; Tynemouth; Newcastle Town Moor, Northumberland. Near Marsden rocks; Beamish, Durham.

LAKES.—Keswick; Castle Sowerby; Daleton; Flimby; Aspatria, &c., Cumberland. Rigmaden, and elsewhere, Westmoreland.

W. LOWLANDS.—About Dumfries; Drumlanrig; Barhill, Tinwald, *P. Gray*, Dumfriesshire. Dalscarith; Glen of Terregles; Douglas Hall, Colvend; and elsewhere, Kircudbrightshire, *P. Gray*. Portpatrick, Wigtonshire. Ayrshire. Cathkin hills, Lanarkshire. Gourock, Renfrewshire.

E. LOWLANDS.—Bernerside hill; Blackburnrigg Dean; Coltingham Moor, Berwickshire. Pentland hills and elsewhere, Edinburghshire. Linlithgowshire.

E. HIGHLANDS.—Clackmannanshire. Kinross-shire. Fifeshire. Ben Lawers; S. of Loch Tay; Blair Athol; Craig Chaliach, Perthshire. Kingoldrum, *G. Lawson*; Clova mountains; Sands of Barry; Montrose; Arbroath, &c., Forfar-

shire. Kincardineshire. Belhelvie Links; Corsehill, &c., Aberdeenshire. Mortlock, Banffshire, *B.S.E.* Morayshire. Auldean, Nairnshire.

W. HIGHLANDS.—Glen Croe, Argyleshire, *B.S.L.* Mugdock, Dumbartonshire. Rothesay, Bute. Breeze hill, Skye.

N. HIGHLANDS.—Ross-shire. Wick, Caithness, rare, *T. Anderson.*

N. ISLES.—Orkney. Shetland.

ULSTER.—Roughfort; Belfast; Altmore glen near Cushendall; Black mountain, Antrim. Benyvena mountains near Magelligan, Londonderry. Scrabo, Down.

LEINSTER.—Luggelaw, Wicklow.

MUNSTER.—Clonmel, Cork, *J. Sibbald.*

#### CETERACH OFFICINARUM, *Willdenow.*

PENINSULA.—Trevenna; Truro; Newlyn; Calstock; Pentillie Castle, Cornwall. Topsham; Torquay; Babbicombe; Plymouth, &c., Devonshire. Bristol; Bream down; Clevedon; Cheddar; Weston-super-mare, &c., Somersetshire.

CHANNEL.—Winchester Cathedral; Pitt near Winchester; Netley Abbey; Selborne; Botley, &c., Hampshire. Brading; Carisbrooke Castle, &c., Isle of Wight. Sherborne, Dorsetshire. Corsham, *B.S.E.*, and other parts of Wiltshire. Pulborough; Enfield; Hurstpierpont; Stopham; Marden; Chailey, &c., Sussex.



- THAMES.**—Hertfordshire. [Middlesex.] Riverhead; Maidstone, and various parts of Kent. Westbrook and Catteshall near Godalming; Haslemere; Farnham, Surrey. [Berkshire.] Cowley, Oxfordshire. Essex.
- OUSE.**—Heveringham church; Heydon church, Norfolk. Northamptonshire.
- SEVERN.**—Tachebrook; Coventry, Warwickshire. Stapleton; Chepstow; Cheltenham; Cirencester, &c., Gloucestershire. Tintern Abbey; Pont-y-pool, &c., Monmouthshire. Hereford; about Ross; Leominster, &c., Herefordshire. Malvern; Badsey near Evesham; Wychwood forest, Worcestershire. Wetton; Berresford; Beeston-tor, &c., Staffordshire. Ludlow, Shropshire.
- S. WALES.**—Brecon; Talgarth; Crickhowel, Brecknockshire. Aberdare; Cardiff, *F. Brent*; Swansea; Gower; Pennard Castle, &c., Glamorganshire. Carmarthenshire. Tenby; Pembroke and Manorbeer castles; Haverfordwest priory, Pembrokeshire.
- N. WALES.**—Holyhead, Anglesea. Denbighshire. Barmouth, Merionethshire. Trebroth; Bangor; near Carnarvon, Carnarvonshire.
- TRENT.**—Colwick park; Papplewick, Nottinghamshire. Dove-dale; Newton near Melbourne; Lath-kill dale, Derbyshire.
- MERSEY.**—Carr-edge, Cheshire. Lancaster; Club-moor near Liverpool; West Houghton; Kellet north of Manchester, Lancashire.

HUMBER.—Rocks behind Malharn ; Kirklees park near Halifax ; about Settle, Yorkshire.

TYNE.—Northumberland.

LAKES.—Arnside Knot ; Milnthorpe ; Kendal ; Castleton ; Ambleside, &c., Westmoreland. Sandwith ; St. Bees ; Gowbarrow park, Ulswater, Cumberland. Silverdale, N. Lancashire, *T. Simpson, B.S.E.*

W. LOWLANDS.—Drumlanrig, Dumfriesshire. Orchardton Buit, Kircudbrightshire, *J. Fraser*. Paisley, Renfrewshire. Glasgow, Lanarkshire.

E. HIGHLANDS.—Kinnoul hill ; near Annat Cottage, *G. Lawson* ; Dens of Balthayock and Pitroddie, Perthshire.

W. HIGHLANDS.—Kilfinnan, Argyleshire.

ULSTER.—Galgorm ; Cave-hill, Antrim. Bryansford, Down. Florence Court, Fermanagh.

CONNAUGHT.—Drumahore, Friarstown Abbey near Sligo, *J. T. Syme, B.S.E.* Round tower of Roscommon between Galway and Oughterard ; near Mohir ; Oughterard ; and many other parts of Galway. Arran Isles.

LEINSTER.—Marlay, co. Dublin (on granite), *S. Foot, B.S.E.* Glendalough, Wicklow. Marble quarries at Kilkenny.

MUNSTER.—Between Clonmel and Waterford, and many parts of Waterford. Castle-Connel and elsewhere, Clare. Cork ; Clonmel, &c., Cork. Limerick. About Killarney, Kerry.

CHANNEL ISLES.—Jersey.

CYSTOPTERIS ALPINA, *Desvaux*.

THAMES.—Wall at Low Layton, Essex.

TRENT.—Derbyshire, *Mr. H. Shepherd*, } who has sent speci-  
 HUMBER.—Yorkshire, *Mr. H. Shepherd*, } mens thus located.

CYSTOPTERIS FRAGILIS, *Bernhardi*.

PENINSULA.—Exwich near Exeter, Devonshire. Cheddar cliffs (with var. *dentata*); Hampton cliffs, Bath, *R. Withers*, &c., Somersetshire.

CHANNEL.—Dorsetshire. Box, Wiltshire, *Dr. Alexander, B.S.E.* (var. *dentata*). Tunbridge Wells, Sussex, *Miss Bower* (var. *dentata*).

THAMES.—Albury, Surrey.

OUSE.—Yoxford; Bungay, Suffolk. Norfolk. [Northamptonshire.]

SEVERN.—Near Arbury Hall (var. *dentata*); Compton Verney, Warwickshire. Near Bristol, &c., Gloucestershire. Skirrid Vawr, near Abergavenny (with var. *dentata*); Wyndcliff woods, *W. H. Purchas*, Monmouthshire. Downton (var. *angustata*); The Dowards on the Wye (var. *dentata*), Herefordshire. Breedon hill; Bromsgrove, Worcestershire. Staffordshire (with var. *dentata*). Whitcliff near Ludlow, Shropshire.

S. WALES.—Radnorshire. Brecknockshire. Pont-nedd-Vechn, &c., Glamorganshire (with var. *dentata*). Cardiganshire.



N. WALES.—Anglesea (var. *dentata*). Llangollen (var. *dentata*); near Wrexham (with var. *dentata*), Denbighshire. Castle Dinas, Flintshire (var. *dentata*). Craig Breiddin, Montgomeryshire (var. *dentata*), *W. A. Leighton, B.S.E.* Barmouth, Merionethshire. Llanberis (vars. *dentata* and *angustata*); Cwm-Idwal, Clogwyn-y-Garnedd, Penmaen Mawr (var. *dentata*), and elsewhere, Carnarvonshire.

TRENT.—Leicestershire. Oxtun and Bulwell churches; Work-sop, Nottinghamshire. Fairfield (with var. *dentata*); Dove-dale (var. *dentata*); Matlock baths (with vars. *dentata* and *angustata*); Castleton; Lover's leap near Buxton, Derbyshire.

MERSEY.—Rostherne church, Cheshire. Lancashire. Var. *dentata* in both counties.

HUMBER.—About Settle (with vars. *dentata* and *angustata*); Reivaulx Abbey, Helmsley; Egglestone bridge on the Greta; Dropping well, Knaresborough; Castle Howard Park; Halifax; Ayrsgarth bridge, Wensley dale (var. *angustata*), and many other parts of Yorkshire.

TYNE.—Cauldron snout (var. *dentata*), &c., Durham. Halt-whistle; Mitford church near Morpeth (with var. *dentata*), *B.S.E.*, Northumberland.

LAKES.—Lamplugh, *J. Dickinson, B.S.E.*; and elsewhere, Cumberland. Kendal (with var. *dentata*), and other parts of Westmoreland. Silverdale, N. Lancashire (var. *dentata*).

- W. LOWLANDS.—Near Hobb's Linn, Moffat dale, Dumfriesshire (var. *dentata*), *P. Gray*. [Formerly on Cluden hills, Kirkcudbrightshire (var. *dentata*), *P. Gray*.] Calderwood, Lanarkshire, *T. B. Bell, B.S.E.*
- E. LOWLANDS.—Coldstream; near Mains, Berwickshire. Pentland hills (var. *angustata*), and elsewhere, Edinburghshire.
- E. HIGHLANDS.—Banks of Loch Lomond, Stirlingshire (var. *dentata*). Castle Campbell near Dollar, Clackmannanshire. Den of Balthayoch; Glen Queich in the Ochils; Pass of Killiecrankie; Killin, Perthshire. Glen Clova and Glen Isla, Forfarshire. Kincardineshire coast. Sea cave-near Aberdeen (var. *Dickieana*); and elsewhere, Aberdeenshire. Cawdor Castle, Nairnshire. Kingussie (var. *dentata*), Morayshire.
- W. HIGHLANDS.—Ben Nevis, Inverness-shire (var. *dentata*). Dunoon, Argyleshire. Dumbartonshire.
- N. HIGHLANDS.—Coul, Ross-shire, *J. Fraser, B.S.E.* Sutherlandshire. Morven, Caithness (var. *dentata*), *T. Anderson*.
- N. ISLES.—Hoy, Orkney (with var. *dentata*), *T. Anderson*.
- W. ISLES.—Langa, Harris, *Dr. Balfour*.
- ULSTER.—Rocks at Carrickfergus, Antrim (var. *dentata*). Black mountain, Down.
- CONNAUGHT.—Leitrim. Connemara, Galway. Sligo, near the town.
- MUNSTER.—Brandon hill; cliffs above Mangerton, Kerry.

CYSTOPTERIS MONTANA, *Link.*

- N. WALES.—[Found in this province (Plukenet), *H. O. Stephens.*]  
 E. HIGHLANDS.—Ben Lawers, *W. Wilson*, 1836; Corrach  
 Dh' Oufillach, in the Mhiel Oufillach mountains, between  
 Glen Dochart and Glen Lochay, *W. Gourlie* and others  
 in 1840, and subsequently, Perthshire.

HYMENOPHYLLUM TUNBRIDGENSE, *Smith.*

- PENINSULA.—Rough tor near Camelford; near Penryn, Corn-  
 wall. Bickleigh Vale; Vixen tor, Staple tor, and Shaugh,  
 Dartmoor, Devonshire. Shepton Mallett, Somersetshire.  
 CHANNEL.—Kent. Tunbridge Wells; Cockbush near Chi-  
 chester; West Hoathly; Ardingley; Handcross; Tilgate  
 forest, *J. A. Brewer*, Sussex.  
 SEVERN.—[Staffordshire.]  
 S. WALES.—Melincourt waterfall; Pont-nedd-Vechn, Glamor-  
 ganshire. Brecknockshire.  
 N. WALES.—Crofnant near Harlech; Dolgelly; Barmouth;  
 vale of Festiniog, Merionethshire. [Anglesea.] [Car-  
 narvonshire.]  
 MERSEY.—Near Croyden brook; hills from Macclesfield to  
 Buxton, Cheshire. Cliviger; Greenfield near Saddleworth;  
 Rake Hey common near Todmorden, Lancashire.  
 HUMBER.—Esk dale near Whitby; near Halifax, &c., Yorkshire.



LAKES.—Ennerdale, Cumberland, *J. Dickinson, B.S.E.* Westmoreland. Conistone, North Lancashire.

W. LOWLANDS.—Drumlanrig, Dumfriesshire. Banks of the Clyde, Lanarkshire.

E. LOWLANDS.—Peeblesshire.

E. HIGHLANDS.—[Stirlingshire.] [Perthshire.]

W. HIGHLANDS.—Bullwood; Dunoon, Argyleshire. Banks of Loch Lomond, Dumbartonshire. Isle of Bute, *Dr. Balfour.*

N. HIGHLANDS.—[Ross-shire.]

CONNAUGHT.—Connemara, *Dr. Graham*; Ballynahinch, *Dr. Balfour*, Galway.

LEINSTER.—Dublin co., rare, *B.S.E.* Powerscourt; Glencree, and elsewhere, Wicklow.

MUNSTER.—Clonmel, *J. Sibbald*; Glengariff, Bantry, *C. C. Babington, B.S.E.*, Cork. Glen Carnn, *W. Andrews, B.S.E.*; about Killarney, and elsewhere in the co. of Kerry.

#### HYMENOPHYLLUM UNILATERALE, *Willdenow.*

PENINSULA.—Bodmin; Carn Brea near Redruth; Rough tor near Camelford; Granite tor, Cornwall. Moreton, *R. J. Gray*; West Lynn, *N. B. Ward*; Vixen tor, Westman's wood, and Shaugh bridge, Dartmoor; Tynemouth; Bickleigh wood, Devonshire.

SEVERN.—Gradbitch near Flash, Staffordshire. Treflach wood, Shropshire.

- S. WALES.—Mountains of Brecknockshire. Pont Breu ; Devil's bridge ; Hafod, Cardiganshire. Carmarthenshire.
- N. WALES.—Dolgelly ; Rhaidr Du near Maentwrog ; Rhaidr-y-Mawddach ; Festiniog, Merionethshire. Cwm Idwal and throughout the Snowdon district ; Rhaidr Mawr, near Llanberis, &c., Carnarvonshire.
- MERSEY.—Near Bury ; Lancaster ; Greenfield ; Thevilly near Burnley, Lancashire.
- HUMBER.—Tamer Clough, Rishworth ; Hawl Gill near Mickleton ; Lower Harrowgate, Yorkshire.
- TYNE.—Jurionside, Northumberland, *B.S.E.*
- LAKES.—Patterdale ; Stock Gill force ; Langdale Pikes, Ambleside, &c., Westmoreland. Keswick ; Bow Fell ; Scaw-Fell ; Borrowdale ; Ennerdale, *J. Dickinson* ; Scale force near Buttermere ; Honister Crag, &c., Cumberland. Near Conistone, *Miss Beaver* ; Old Man mountain ; Silverdale, N. Lancashire.
- W. LOWLANDS.—Dalvene Pass ; Nithside ; near Penpont ; Grey Mare's Tail, Moffat dale, *P. Gray*, Dumfriesshire. Kircudbrightshire. Glen Ness, W. Dalmellington, Ayrshire, *Dr. M'Nab*, *B.S.E.* Rocks above Gourock, Renfrewshire.
- E. LOWLANDS.—Peeblesshire.
- E. HIGHLANDS.—By the Reeky Linn on the Isla, Forfarshire. Dollar, Clackmannanshire. Glen Queich in the Ochils ; Ben Lawers ; Pass of Loney, *B.S.E.* ; Finlarig Burn, near

Killin; rocks in the Trosachs; shores of Loch Katrine, Perthshire.

W. HIGHLANDS.—Crinnan; Glen Moray; Dunoon; Glen Fin-nart, Argyleshire. Banks of Loch Lomond; Bowling hills, Dumbartonshire. Ben More; Loch Spelire; Taber-morey, Isle of Mull. Isles of Islay and Arran.

N. HIGHLANDS.—Sutherlandshire.

N. ISLES.—Hoy, Orkney, *R. Heddell*. Near Ska, Unst, Shetland.

W. ISLES.—Langa, Harris.

ULSTER.—By the Glenarve river near Cushendall; Colin Glen, Belfast, Antrim. Londonderry. Ennishowen mountains. Donegal. Tullaghmore park; Mourne mountains, Down. Florence Court, Fermanagh.

CONNAUGHT.—Connemara, Oughterard, &c., Galway. Mountains of Mayo, *J. Ball, B.S.L.*

LEINSTER.—Dublin, *S. Foot, B.S.E.* Glendalough; Hermitage Glen; Powerscourt waterfall, and other parts of Wicklow.

MUNSTER.—Glens near Youghal, Cork. Great Blanket Island; Killarney, and among the mountains of Kerry.

#### LASTREA CRISTATA, *Presl.*

PENINSULA.—[Devonshire.]

THAMES.—Epping forest, Essex (*uliginosa*), *E. Newman*. [Oxfordshire.]

OUSE.—Westleton; Bexley decoy near Ipswich, *H. Bidwell*,



Suffolk. Bawsey heath near Lynn (with *uliginosa*); Der-  
singham; Edgefield near Holt (with *uliginosa*); Fritton  
near Yarmouth; Surlingham broad near Norwich (appa-  
rently with *uliginosa*), *W. S. Hore*; Wymondham (*uliginosa*),  
Norfolk. Huntingdonshire. [Bedfordshire.]

SEVERN.—Near Madeley, Staffordshire. [Worcestershire.]

TRENT.—Oxton bogs (with *uliginosa*); Bullwell marshes, Not-  
tinghamshire.

MERSEY.—Wybunbury bog, Cheshire (with *uliginosa*). Wool-  
ston moss near Warrington, Lancashire (*uliginosa*), *W.*  
*Wilson, B.S.L.*

HUMBER.—[Plumpton rocks near Knaresborough, Yorkshire,  
according to Baines's Flora of Yorkshire, but there is  
probably some mistake.]

E. HIGHLANDS.—[Aberdeenshire.] [Kincardineshire; *uliginosa*.]

MUNSTER.—Mucruss, Killarney, Kerry (var. *uliginosa*), *Dr.*  
*Mackay*. [The plant from Rathronan near Clonmel seems  
to be rather a state of *L. Filix-mas*.]

#### LASTREA DILATATA, *Presl.*

PENINSULA.—Cornwall. Lynmouth; Torquay; Walkhampton,  
&c., Devonshire. Inghishcombe wood, Somersetshire.

CHANNEL.—Hampshire. Ninham near Ryde, Isle of Wight.  
Dorsetshire. Wiltshire. Hastings; Tunbridge Wells,  
Sussex.

THAMES.—Hertford heath; Broxbourne; Aldenham; Hitchin, &c., Hertfordshire. Eridge rocks, Kent. Chertsey; Bagshot; Virginia Water, and other parts of Surrey. Hampstead, Middlesex. Epping, Essex.

OUSE.—Norwich, Norfolk. Cambridgeshire. Northamptonshire.

SEVERN.—Stoke heath; Stinchall; Whitley; and other parts of Warwickshire. Gloucestershire. Howle hill, Ross; Colwall, Herefordshire. Worcestershire. Staffordshire. Shropshire.

S. WALES.—Brecknockshire. Glamorganshire. Cardiganshire. Pembrokehire.

N. WALES.—Denbighshire. Flintshire. Carnarvonshire.

TRENT.—Leicestershire. Black rock, Cromford moor, near Matlock, Derbyshire (var. *dumetorum*). Lincolnshire. Nottinghamshire.

MERSEY.—Lindon moss near Mobberley, Cheshire. Risley moss near Warrington; Clough near Manchester, and elsewhere on the hills (var. *collina*) of Lancashire.

HUMBER.—Leckby Carr; Heckfall wood; Sheffield moor; Settle; Halifax; Ingleborough (var. *collina*), and elsewhere, Yorkshire.

TYNE.—Morpeth, Northumberland. Durham.

LAKES.—Near Elter water (var. *collina*), and elsewhere (var. *dumetorum*), Westmoreland. Red house, Cumberland.

W. LOWLANDS.—Dumfriesshire. Ayrshire. Lanarkshire.



- E. LOWLANDS.—Roxburghshire. Berwickshire. Edinburghshire.
- E. HIGHLANDS.—Stirlingshire. Clackmannanshire. Kinrossshire. Fifeshire. Mountains near Crieff (as var. *montana*), *Dr. Balfour*, &c., Perthshire. Forfarshire. Kingcausie, Kincardineshire, *J. T. Syme*. Ben-na-Baird, Aberdeenshire. Banffshire. Morayshire. E. Inverness-shire.
- W. HIGHLANDS.—Appin, Argyleshire, *J. T. Syme*. Dumbartonshire. W. Inverness-shire. Goat-fell mountain, Arran (as *L. maculata*), *Dr. Deakin*. Isles of Islay and Cantyre. Ailsa Craig.
- N. HIGHLANDS.—Ross-shire. Sutherlandshire. Caithness, *T. Anderson*.
- N. ISLES.—Hoy and other Islands of Orkney, *T. Anderson*.
- W. ISLES.—N. Uist. Harris. Lewis.
- ULSTER. }  
 CONNAUGHT. } Not likely to be absent from all these provinces.  
 LEINSTER. }
- MUNSTER.—Clonmel, Cork, *J. Sibbald*.
- CHANNEL ISLES.—Jersey.

LASTREA FILIX-MAS, *Presl*.

One of our most common Ferns, dispersed over the whole of England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, and found in the Northern and Western Isles, and in Jersey.



The var. *incisa* has been reported or seen from Combe Martin, Devonshire, *C. C. Babington, B.S.E.*; Wiltshire; Bridport, Dorsetshire, *B.S.L.*; Sturry, Kent; Reigate, Virginia Water, Bagshot, Mayford, St. Martha's near Guildford, and Sutton Park, Surrey; Barnet, Hertfordshire; King's Cliffe, Northamptonshire; Cathcart hills near Glasgow, Lanarkshire; Ben Chonzie mountain near Crieff, Perthshire; Kingcausie, Kincardineshire, *J. T. Syme*.

The var. *abbreviata* is recorded from Ingleborough, Yorkshire, *G. Pinder*; and Conistone, Lancashire, *Miss Beaver*.

At Rathronan, Cork, occurs a small forked variety somewhat resembling *cristata*.

#### LASTREA FŒNISECII, *Watson*.

PENINSULA.—Penzance; St. Michael's mount; Helston; Lostwithiel; Truro, and throughout Cornwall. Chambercombe; Ilfracombe; Lynton; Barnstaple; Clovelly, &c., Devonshire. Somersetshire.

CHANNEL.—Tunbridge Wells; West Hoathly, Sussex.

SEVERN.—Herefordshire.

N. WALES.—Merionethshire.

HUMBER.—[Yorkshire.]

TYNE.—[Northumberland.]

LAKES.—St. Bee's head, Cumberland.

E. HIGHLANDS.—Baldovan, Kinnordy, Forfarshire.

W. HIGHLANDS.—Banks of Loch Lomond, Dumbartonshire.  
Wooded rocks between Brodick and Corrie, and between  
Lamlash and Whiting Bay, Arran, *Dr. Balfour*.

N. ISLES.—Hoy, Orkney, rather common, *T. Anderson*.

W. ISLES.—N. Uist, *Dr. Balfour*.

ULSTER.—Fairhead, Antrim. Near Coleraine; Rushbrook;  
Garvagh, Londonderry. Banks of Lough Swilly; Milroy  
bay; Arregal hill near Donegal; about Lough Derg,  
Donegal.

CONNAUGHT.—Sligo. Foot of Nephin; Coraan Achill; New-  
port; Westport, &c., Mayo. About Clifden; about Round-  
stone and Ballynahinch; near Oughterard, Galway.

LEINSTER.—Seven Churches, abundant, *D. Moore, B. S. E.*;  
Glendalough, abundant and luxuriant, Wicklow.

MUNSTER.—Near Loop-head, Clare. Near Cork; woods about  
Glengarriff; Clonmel, *J. Sibbald*, Cork. On the mountains  
and in the woods of Kerry, especially about Killarney,  
Dinis Island, Cromauglan, and O'Sullivan's cascade.

#### LASTREA OREOPTERIS, *Presl.*

PENINSULA.—Cornwall. Lynmouth, Devonshire. Near Keyn-  
sham, &c., Somersetshire.

CHANNEL.—New Forest near Lyndhurst; near Southampton,  
Hampshire. Apse Castle, Isle of Wight. Dorsetshire.  
Wiltshire. Tilgate Forest; Tunbridge Wells, and else-  
where, Sussex.



- THAMES.—Bell wood, Bayford; Tring; Broxbourne, &c., Hertfordshire. Hampstead, Middlesex. Bexley; Blackheath; Bailey's hill between Brasted and Tunbridge, Kent. Witley; Hindhead; Cobham; Wimbledon, and elsewhere, Surrey. Shotover hill, Oxfordshire. Hartwell, Buckinghamshire. High Beech; Little Baddow, *A. Wallis, B.S.L.*, Essex.
- OUSE.—Bradwell, Suffolk. Near Crome, Norfolk, *R. Wigham, B.S.L.* Fulbourne, Teversham, &c., Cambridgeshire. Dalington heath, Northamptonshire.
- SEVERN.—Allesley; about Arbury Hall; Coleshill heath; Corley, Warwickshire. Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire, *W. H. Purchas*. Herefordshire. Malvern hills, Worcestershire, *E. Lees, B.S.L.* Staffordshire. Shropshire.
- S. WALES.—Radnorshire. Brecknockshire. Swansea, Glamorganshire, *T. B. Flower, B.S.E.* Carmarthenshire. Cardiganshire.
- N. WALES.—Anglesea. Wrexham, Denbighshire. Flintshire. Dolgelly, Merionethshire, *B.S.L.* Near Llanberis and other parts of Carnarvonshire.
- TRENT.—Near Twycross, Leicestershire. Rutland. Lincolnshire. Oxtou and Eddingley bogs, Nottinghamshire. De-thich moor; Riley, Derbyshire.
- MERSEY.—Birkenhead and Oxtou, Cheshire. Near Warrington; Rochdale; Rainhill; Gateacre, Lancashire.



- HUMBER.—Valley of the Don, near Doncaster; Melton wood near Adwick; Escrick, near York; Whitby; Richmond; Halifax; Everley near Scarborough, Yorkshire.
- TYNE.—Chapel Weardale; Cawsey Dean near Newcastle; by the Tees, Durham. Northumberland.
- LAKES.—Keswick; near Lodore waterfall; Patterdale, Cumberland. Langdale and other parts of Westmoreland.
- W. LOWLANDS.—Moffat dale, Dumfriesshire, *P. Gray*. Lanarkshire.
- E. LOWLANDS.—Ruberslaw, Roxburghshire. Pentland hills. Edinburgh. Dye at Longformacus; Banks of Whiteadder, Berwickshire.
- E. HIGHLANDS.—Ben Lomond, Stirlingshire. Clackmannanshire. Kinross-shire. Glen Isla; Clova mountains; Sidlaw hills, Forfarshire. Craig Chailliach; by Loch Tay, Perthshire. Aberdeenshire. Morayshire.
- W. HIGHLANDS.—Argyleshire. Dumbartonshire. Isles of Islay and Cantyre.
- N. HIGHLANDS.—Sutherlandshire.
- W. ISLES.—N. Uist.
- ULSTER.—Milroy bay, Donegal. Derry.
- CONNAUGHT.—Lough Corril, Galway.
- LEINSTER.—Glencree, *S. Foot, B.S.E.*; Seven Churches, *D. Moore, B.S.E.*; Glendalough; and Powerscourt, Wicklow.
- MUNSTER.—Mangerton, Killarney, *S. P. Woodward, B.S.L.*, Kerry.

LASTREA RIGIDA, *Presl.*

MERSEY.—[Lancashire.]

HUMBER.—Ingleborough; Wharnside; Attermine rocks near Settle, Yorkshire.

LAKES.—Arnside Knot; Hutton Roof crags; Farlton Knot, Westmoreland. Silverdale; by the Lancaster and Kendal Canal, N. Lancashire.

LASTREA SPINULOSA, *Presl.*

The habitats of this species are not recorded sufficiently distinct from those of *L. dilatata*.

PENINSULA.—About Penzance, Cornwall. Devonshire. Somersetshire.

CHANNEL.—Hampshire. Tinker's hole, Apse Castle, and elsewhere in the Isle of Wight. Dorsetshire. Tunbridge Wells, Sussex.

THAMES.—Ball's woods, Hertford; N. Mimms; Hatfield, &c., Herts. Chiselhurst; Canterbury, &c., Kent. Middlesex. Wimbledon, Portnall park, Virginia Water, &c., Surrey. Fulmer, Buckinghamshire. Epping; Danbury; Coggeshall, Essex.

OUSE.—Suffolk. Surlingham broad near Norwich, &c., Norfolk. Foulbourne, Cambridgeshire. Northamptonshire.

SEVERN.—North wood, Arbury Hall; Binley; Rugby, War-



wickshire. Ankerberry hill, Forest of Dean (*L. glandulosa*), *W. H. Purchas*, &c., Gloucestershire. The Horls near Ross, Herefordshire. Worcestershire. Needwood, Staffordshire.

S. WALES.—Brecknockshire. Glamorganshire. Carmarthen-shire.

N. WALES.—Carnarvonshire.

TRENT.—Paplewick; Oxtun bogs, Nottinghamshire. Nether-scull, Leicestershire, *A. Bloxam*, *B.S.L.* Derbyshire.

MERSEY.—Delamere Forest, Cheshire. Chat-moss; Lowgill; Risley moss near Warrington, Lancashire.

HUMBER.—Sheffield; Richmond; Ingleborough; Doncaster; Leckby Carr; Terrington Carr, Yorkshire.

TYNE.—[?]

LAKES.—Red-house, Cumberland. Westmoreland. Isle of Man.

W. LOWLANDS.—[Dumfriesshire, *P. Gray*.]

E. LOWLANDS.—[Edinburghshire.]

E. HIGHLANDS.—[Forfarshire.]

W. HIGHLANDS.—[Argyleshire.]

N. HIGHLANDS.—Dingwall, Ross-shire, *W. C. Trevelyan*.

W. ISLES.—North Uist. Harris. Lewis.

#### LASTREA THELYPTERIS, *Presl*.

PENINSULA.—Devonshire. Somersetshire.

CHANNEL.—Portsea; Winchester, Hampshire. West Medina;



Willderness; Cridmore, &c., Isle of Wight. Tunbridge Wells; Albourne; Amberley; Waterdown forest; Ore near Hastings, Sussex.

THAMES.—North Cray; Bexley; Ham ponds near Sandwich, Kent. Leith hill; near Godalming; Wimbledon common; Pirbright common, Surrey. Windsor Park and Sonning-hill Wells, Berkshire. Epping; Little Baddow, Essex.

OUSE.—Belton; Bungay; Hipton; Bradwell common, Suffolk. Horning; St. Faith's; Upton; Filby; Holt; Edgefield, Felthorpe; Wroxham; Dereham; Lound near Yarmouth; about Norwich, Norfolk. Wicken and Whittlesea fens; Feversham moors; Gamlingay, Cambridgeshire. Potton marshes, Bedfordshire. Huntingdonshire.

SEVERN.—[Formerly near Allesley, Warwickshire.] Herefordshire. Staffordshire. Shropshire.

S. WALES.—Sketty bog; Cwmbola, Glamorganshire.

N. WALES.—Llwydiart lake, Pentraeth; Beaumaris, Anglesea. [Near Llanberis, Carnarvonshire.]

TRENT.—Oxton and Bullwell bogs, Nottinghamshire. [Leicestershire.]

MERSEY.—Newchurch bog; Knutsford moor; Over; Wybunbury bog; Harnicroft wood near Wernith, Cheshire.

HUMBER.—Potterie Carr; Askham bog; Terrington Carr; Buttercrambe near York; Heslington; Doncaster; Settle; Fens at Askern, Yorkshire.

- TYNE.—Learmouth bogs, Northumberland.
- LAKES.—Keswick ; Ulleswater ; Glencoin, Cumberland. [Hammersham bog, Westmoreland.]
- E. HIGHLANDS.—Rescobie ; Restenet, Forfarshire.
- N. ISLES.—[Shetland.]
- ULSTER.—Portmore park by Lough Neagh, Antrim ; Boggy wood at Portumna, Galway, *D. Moore.*
- CONNAUGHT.—Near Lough Carra, Mayo.
- LEINSTER.—Marshes at Glencree, Wicklow.
- MUNSTER.—Marsh near Mucruss, Killarney, Kerry.

OPHIOGLOSSUM VULGATUM, *Linnaeus.*

- PENINSULA.—Cornwall. Slateford ; Barnstaple, Devonshire. Somersetshire.
- CHANNEL.—Strathfieldsaye ; Stoke ; Wanston, Hampshire. Bembridge down ; Blackgang Chine ; West Cowes, &c., Isle of Wight. Box, Dorsetshire. Long-leat, Wiltshire. Highlands, Framfield, &c., Sussex.
- THAMES.—Bury woods, Hitchin ; Elstree ; Essenden, and other parts of Hertfordshire. Hackney marshes ; Sion lane, Isleworth ; Osterley Park, Brentford ; near Turnham Green, Middlesex. West Farleigh ; Greenhithe, &c., Kent. Compton ; Beddington ; Cobham ; Reigate ; Dorking, &c., Surrey. Banbury, Oxfordshire. Essex.
- OUSE.—Suffolk. Upton broad ; Ellingham fen, &c., Norfolk.



Wilburton; Grantchester; Whitwell, Cambridgeshire.  
Bedfordshire. Huntingdonshire.

SEVERN.—Foleshill; Wellesbourne, &c., Warwickshire. Gloucestershire. Howle hill, Ross; West Hope hill; Upton Bishop, &c., Herefordshire. Needwood, Staffordshire. West Felton, Shropshire.

N. WALES.—Anglesea. Wrexham, Denbighshire.

TRENT.—Near Braunston; Thringston; Humberstone, Leicestershire. Papelewick; Colwick, Nottinghamshire. Heanor; Breadsall, Derbyshire.

MERSEY.—Alderley, Cheshire. Warrington; Bidston marsh, &c., Lancashire.

HUMBER.—Richmond; Settle; Whitby; Huddersfield, &c., Yorkshire.

TYNE.—Middleton, Durham. Hexham; Hawthorn Dene; Haltwhistle, Northumberland.

LAKES.—Westmoreland. Cumberland.

W. LOWLANDS.—Kircudbrightshire. Lanarkshire.

E. LOWLANDS.—Coldstream, Berwickshire. Dalmeny and Arniston woods, Edinburgh. Linlithgowshire.

E. HIGHLANDS.—Dunfermline, Fifeshire, *G. M'Nab, B.S.E.* Dunsinnane, Perthshire. Forfarshire. Burghead, Morayshire, *G. Wilson, B.S.E.*

W. HIGHLANDS.—Argyleshire.

N. ISLES.—Orkney. Shetland.



- ULSTER.—Knockagh, Carrickfergus; near Belfast, Antrim.  
 CONNAUGHT.—Arran Isles, Galway.  
 LEINSTER.—Holly Park, Dublin, *S. Foot, B.S.E.*; Dunsink, Dublin.  
 MUNSTER.—Clonmel, Cork, “found several years since by *Mr. R. Davis.*”

OSMUNDA REGALIS, *Linnæus.*

- PENINSULA.—Common in the low boggy parts of Cornwall. Dawlish; Watermouth near Ilfracombe; Holme Chase near Ashburton, Devonshire. Somersetshire.  
 CHANNEL.—Frequent in the west of Hampshire. Isle of Wight. Isle of Purbeck, Dorsetshire, *T. B. Salter, B.S.E.* Wiltshire. Tunbridge; Uckfield; Buxton Park, Sussex.  
 THAMES.—[Formerly on Hampstead Heath, Middlesex.] Thursley; Hindhead; Hambledon heath; Cæsar’s Camp, Farnham; Chobham; Bagshot; Frimley; Esher; Wimbledon; Dorking; Reigate, *H. M. Holmes, B.S.L.*, Surrey. Berkshire. Buckinghamshire. Great Warley and Little Warley; Little Baddow; Epping, Essex.  
 OUSE.—Suffolk. Caistor near Yarmouth, *D. Stock, B.S.L.*; Horning ferry, *W. J. West, B.S.L.* [Gamlingay, Cambridgeshire.] Bedfordshire.  
 SEVERN.—Arbury; Birmingham, and elsewhere, Warwickshire.

- Worcestershire. Staffordshire. Ellesmere Lakes; West Felton, Shropshire.
- S. WALES.—Swansea, Glamorganshire, *G. Lawson*; Fishguard, Pembrokeshire, *E. Lees, B.S.L.* Carmarthenshire.
- N. WALES.—Anglesea. Denbighshire. Barmouth; Falls of the Cynvael near Festiniog, Merionethshire. Loughton bog, Flintshire, *Dr. Bidwell, B.S.E.* Carnarvonshire.
- TRENT.—Leicestershire. Mansfield; Bullwell, Nottinghamshire.
- MERSEY.—Lindon moss near Mobberley, Cheshire. Speke near Liverpool; Chat moss; Woolston moss, and elsewhere near Warrington; Poulton le Sand, Lancashire.
- HUMBER.—Pottery Carr, near Doncaster; Leeds; Askham bog; Whitby; York, and other parts of Yorkshire.
- TYNE.—Durham. Northumberland.
- LAKES.—Windermere, *T. Rylands, B.S.L.*; Colwith, *H. Fordham, B.S.L.*, Westmoreland. Cumberland. Isle of Man.
- W. LOWLANDS.—By the Manse, or White Loch, Colvend, Kirkcudbrightshire, *P. Gray.* By the Clyde, Lanarkshire.
- E. HIGHLANDS.—Stirlingshire. Fifeshire. Kincardineshire. Culross, Perthshire. Arbroath, *G. Lawson*; Montrose; Kinnaird, &c., Forfarshire. Mill of Leys, *G. Dickie, B.S.E.*, and elsewhere, Aberdeenshire.
- W. HIGHLANDS.—Glen Finnart; Dunoon; Loch Fine, N.E. of Inverary, Argyleshire. By Loch Lomond, Dumbartonshire. Isles of Arran, Bute, Mull, and Islay.

- N. HIGHLANDS.—Inchnedamff, Sutherlandshire. Ross-shire.  
 N. ISLES.—Shetland.  
 W. ISLES.—N. Uist. Harris. Lewis.  
 CONNAUGHT.—Abundant in Connemara; Oughterard, Galway.  
 Achill Island. Castlebar; Mayo.  
 LEINSTER.—Kelly's Glen, co. Dublin.  
 MUNSTER.—Bandon; Clonmel, frequent, *J. Sibbald*, Cork.  
 Letterfrack near Ballinaskellig's Bay; Mucruss Abbey,  
 Killarney, Kerry.  
 CHANNEL ISLES.—Jersey.

POLYPODIUM ALPESTRE, *Sprengel*.

- E. HIGHLANDS.—Mountains near Dalwhinnie, Inverness-shire,  
 1841, *H. C. Watson*. Canlochen glen, Forfarshire, 1844,  
*H. C. Watson*.  
 W. HIGHLANDS.—Great Corrie of Ben Alder, Inverness-shire,  
 1841, *H. C. Watson*.

POLYPODIUM CALCAREUM, *Smith*.

- PENINSULA.—Bath; Cheddar cliffs; Mendip hills; Friary  
 wood; Hinton Abbey, Somersetshire.  
 CHANNEL.—Box quarries; Corsham, *Dr. Alexander, B.S.E.*  
 Wiltshire.  
 THAMES.—Oxfordshire.  
 SEVERN.—Besborough common, *W. H. Purchas*; rocks by the



Wye, near Symond's Yat, and Colwall near Whitchurch; Lydbrook in the Forest of Dean; Windlass hill near Cheltenham; Cleave-cloud; Postlip hill on the Cotswolds; Cirencester, *J. Buckman*; English Bicknor, *A. T. Willmot*; Leigh wood near Bristol, Gloucestershire. Herefordshire (planted). Worcestershire. Staffordshire.

S. WALES.—Merthyr-Tydvil, Glamorganshire.

N. WALES.—Llanferris, Denbighshire. [Cwm-Idwal, Carnarvonshire.]

TRENT.—Matlock; Buxton; Bakewell, *T. Butler*, Derbyshire.

MERSEY.—Lancaster; Sheddin-clough near Barnley; Broadbank, Lancashire.

HUMBER.—Ingleborough; near Settle; Anster rocks; Arncliffe; Gordale; Ravenscar, Waldenhead, *J. Ward*, *B.S.E.*, Yorkshire.

TYNE.—Falcon Clints, Durham, *T. Simpson*.

LAKES.—Newbiggin wood; Gelt quarries; Baron heath, Cumberland. Scout near Kendal; Arnside knot; Hutton roof; Farlton knot; Caskill kirk, Westmoreland.

### POLYPODIUM DRYOPTERIS, *Linnaeus*.

PENINSULA.—Mendip hills; near Bristol; near Bath, Somersetshire.

CHANNEL.—[Petersfield, Hampshire, *Dr. Bromfield*.]

THAMES.—Cornbury quarry, Oxfordshire. Essex.

SEVERN.—Berkswell, Warwickshire. Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire. Tintern Abbey, Monmouthshire. Penyard park near Ross; near Downton castle, by the Teme; Aymestree quarry; Shobden-hill woods, Herefordshire. Malvern hills; Shrawley wood, Worcestershire. Trentham park; near Cotton hall and Oakamoor; Needwood, Staffordshire. Titterstone Clee hill; Whitcliffe near Ludlow; Froddesley hill, Shropshire.

S. WALES.—Craig-Pwll-du, Radnorshire. Brecon; Trecastle; Pont Henryd, near Capel Colboen; Ystrad Felltree, Brecknockshire, Pont Nedd-Vechn; Scwd-y-Gladis; Merthyr-Tydvil, Glamorganshire. Ponterwyd; Hafod, *J. Riley, B.S.E.*, &c., Cardiganshire.

N. WALES.—Anglesea. Llangollen, Denbighshire. Craig-Breidden; Plinlymmon, Montgomeryshire. Merionethshire. Near St. Asaph, Flintshire. Cwm-Idwal; Llanberis; Bangor; Rhaidr-y-Wenol, Twll-du, Carnarvonshire.

TRENT.—Chinley hill near Chapel-le-Frith; Pleasley forges, Derbyshire. Lincolnshire.

MERSEY.—Hill Cliff, Cheshire. Warrington; Broadbank near Colne; Dean-church Clough; Mere Clough; Cotteril Clough; Lancaster; Ashworth wood, &c., Lancashire.

HUMBER.—Burley; Brimham rocks; Thirsk; Ingleborough; Reivaulx wood; Teesdale; Halifax; Whitby; Richmond; Settle, *J. Talham, B.S.L.*; Brierley; Castle Howard park, and many other parts of Yorkshire.



TYNE.—Walbottle Dene; foot of the Cheviot, near Langley ford, Durham. Morpeth; Hexham; Shewing Shields; Scotswood Dene, Northumberland.

LAKES.—Lodore near Keswick; Borrowdale; Calder bridge; Wasdale; Scale force; Gillsland, Cumberland. Amble-side, Hutton roof; Casterton, &c., Westmoreland. Conistone, N. Lancashire.

W. LOWLANDS.—Drumlanrig; Maiden Bower craigs, &c., Dumfriesshire. Cluden craigs; hills above Dalseairth, Kircudbrightshire, *P. Gray*. Falls of the Clyde; Calderwood, *T. B. Bell, B.S.E.*, Lanarkshire. Gourock, Renfrewshire.

E. LOWLANDS.—Wanchope, Roxburghshire, *W. Scott, B.S.E.* Banks of the Whiteadder; Longformacus, Berwickshire. Rosslyn and Auchindenny woods, and elsewhere about Edinburgh.

E. HIGHLANDS.—Clackmannanshire. Kinross-shire. Carden den, Fifeshire, *R. Maughan, B.S.E.* Culross; Ben Lawers; Killin; Dalnacardoch; Killiecrankie, *H. B. M. Harris, B.S.E.*; Perthshire. Sidlaw hills; Clova mountains; Clack of the Ballock, *L. Carnegie, B.S.E.* Forfarshire. Inglies Maldie, Kincardineshire, *A. Croall, B.S.E.* Braemar, Aberdeenshire. Cawdor woods, Nairnshire, *J. M'Nab, B.S.E.* Dalwhinnie, Morayshire.

W. HIGHLANDS.—Freuch Corrie, Strath Affarie, W. Invernessshire. By Loch Lomond; Ben Voirlich, Dumbartonshire.



Between Lochs Awe and Etive; Brodick; Dunoon, Argyle-shire. Isle of Arran. Tobermorey, Isle of Mull, *W. Christy, B.S.E.*

N. HIGHLANDS.—Ross-shire. Ferry house E. of Loch Erboll, Sutherlandshire.

ULSTER.—Knockleyd, Antrim, very rare. Mourne mountains, Down.

CONNAUGHT.—Mam Turk, Galway.

MUNSTER.—Mucruss, Killarney, Kerry.

POLYPODIUM PHEGOPTERIS, *Linnæus.*

PENINSULA.—Near Tintagel, Cornwall. Sheep's tor; Dartmoor; Ilfracombe; Becky falls, &c., Devonshire.

CHANNEL.—Forest row, Sussex.

THAMES.—[Near Brentford, Middlesex.] [Norwood, Surrey.]

SEVERN.—Forest of Dean; near Lydbrook, Gloucestershire. Shobden hill woods; Aymestree quarry, Herefordshire. Ridge hill; Madeley, &c., Staffordshire. Titterstone Clee hill; near Ludlow, Shropshire.

S. WALES.—Craig-Pwll-du; Rhayader, Radnorshire. Pont Henryd near Capel Colboen; Brecon beacon, &c., Brecknockshire. Pont Nedd Vechn; Scwd-y-Gladis; Cilhepste, Glamorganshire. Glynhir, near Llandebie, Camarthenshire. Hafod, &c., Cardiganshire.

N. WALES.—Plinlymmon, Montgomeryshire. Falls of the Cyn-

vael near Festiniog; Barmouth, &c., Merionethshire. Llanrwst, Denbighshire. Cwm-Idwal; Llanberis; Aberglaslyn; Bangor, &c., Carnarvonshire,

TRENT.—Buxton, Derbyshire.

MERSEY.—Werneth, &c., Cheshire. Dean-church Clough, near Bolton; near Todmorden; Philips wood, near Prestwich; Blackhay, Clitheroe, &c., Lancashire.

HUMBER.—Halifax; Beckdale Helmsley; Buttercrambe moor near York; Settle; Sheffield; Ingleborough; and many other parts of Yorkshire.

TYNE.—By the Tees above Middleton; rocks above Langley ford; Cawsey Dene, &c., Durham. Moors near Wallington; Shewing Shields; Cheviot hills; Hexham, Northumberland.

LAKES.—Wardale; Borrowdale; Ennerdale; Scaw-fell; Keswick; Tindall fell, &c., Cumberland. Ambleside; Grasmere; Casterton fell; Hutton roof, &c., Westmoreland. Conistone, N. Lancashire. Isle of Man.

W. LOWLANDS.—Drumlanrig; Rae hills; Jardine hall, Dumfriesshire. Dalscairth; Mabie, Kircudbrightshire, *P. Gray*. Gourrock, Renfrewshire. Falls of the Clyde; Calderwood; Crutherland; Campsie near Glasgow; Corra Lyn, &c., Lanarkshire.

E. LOWLANDS.—Berwickshire. Jedburgh; Ruberslaw, Roxburghshire. Pentland hills; Arniston; Rosslyn, and Auchindenny woods, near Edinburgh.



E. HIGHLANDS.—Castle Campbell, near Dollar, Clackmannan-shire, *J. T. Syme, B.S.E.* Dunfermline; Inverkeithing; Carden den, Fifeshire. Kincardineshire. Glen Queich in the Ochils; Ben Lawers; Dalnacardoch; Tyndrum; Killin; Bridge of Brackland, near Callender; Craig Chailliach, Loch Tay, &c., Perthshire. Canlochen, Clova, Forfarshire. Castleton, Braemar, Aberdeenshire. Dalwhinnie, Morayshire.

W. HIGHLANDS.—Aberarder; Ben Nevis; Red Caird hill, &c., W. Inverness-shire. Dunoon; Crinnan; Inverary; pass of Glencroe, &c., Argyleshire. Ben Voirlich; by Loch Lomond; Tarbet; Arroquher, &c., Dumbartonshire. Isles of Mull, Islay, and Cantyre.

N. HIGHLANDS.—Kessock, Ross-shire. Ferry-house E. of Loch Erboll, Sutherland. Morven, Caithness, rare, *T. Anderson.*

N. ISLES.—Hoy, Orkney, *T. Anderson.* North Marm, Shetland.

ULSTER.—By the Glenarve, near Cushendall, and other parts of Antrim. Waterfall above Lough Esk, Donegal. Slieve Bignian; near Slieve Croob; Black mountain, Down. Ness glen, Londonderry.

LEINSTER.—Carlingford mountain, Louth. Powerscourt waterfall, Wicklow.

MUNSTER.—Between Killarney and Kenmare; Mucruss, Kerry.

POLYPODIUM VULGARE, *Linnaeus.*

This is one of our most common Ferns, dispersed throughout



the United Kingdom and Ireland, and found in Jersey, and in the Western Isles, N. Uist, Harris, and Lewis. The varieties only are enumerated below; *cambricum*? is intended for the Irish form, so called, which appears distinct from the true *cambricum*.

PENINSULA.—Torquay, Devonshire (var. ? *cambricum*). Cheddar cliffs, Somersetshire (var. ? *cambricum*).

CHANNEL.—Bonchurch, Isle of Wight (var. ? *cambricum*).

THAMES.—Kent (var. *serratum*). Surrey (var. *serratum*).

SEVERN.—Warwickshire (var. *serratum*). Whitchurch and Mordiford (var. *serratum*); Goodrich Castle, Ross, *E. T. Bennett* (var. ? *cambricum*), Herefordshire. Malvern, Worcestershire (var. *serratum*).

N. WALES.—The var. *cambricum* in various parts of N. Wales.

W. LOWLANDS.—Kircudbrightshire (var. *serratum*).

E. LOWLANDS.—Braid hill near Edinburgh (var. *cambricum*).

CONNAUGHT.—Arran Isles (var. ? *cambricum*).

LEINSTER.—Wood near the Dargle, Wicklow (var. ? *cambricum*).

MUNSTER.—Killarney, Kerry (var. ? *cambricum*).

CHANNEL ISLES.—[Guernsey: var. ? *cambricum*.]

### POLYSTICHUM ACULEATUM, *Roth*.

PENINSULA.—Cornwall. Lynmouth; between Totness and Ashburton, &c. (with *lobatum*), Devonshire. Portishead, &c. (with *lobatum*), Somersetshire.

CHANNEL.—Selborne, *Miss Bower* (with *lobatum*, *T. B. Salter*);

Alresford, &c., Hampshire. Isle of Wight (with *lobatum*).  
Dorsetshire. Box quarries, Wiltshire (with *lobatum*, as  
*lonchitidioides*). Henfield; Groombridge (*lobatum*), Sussex.

THAMES.—St. Albans; Totteridge; Hitchin; Essendon, &c.,  
Hertfordshire. Middlesex. Kent (with *lobatum*). May-  
ford and Dorking (*lobatum*); and elsewhere (with *lobatum*),  
Surrey. Chalfont (*lobatum*); Fulmer, Buckinghamshire.  
Berkshire (with *lobatum*). Oxfordshire (with *lobatum*).  
Near Ongar; Brentwood; Chingford, and Black Notley  
(*lobatum*), Essex.

OUSE.—Sudbury, &c. (with *lobatum*), Suffolk. Yarmouth (*lo-  
batum*); Edgefield near Holt, Norfolk. Gamlingay, Cam-  
bridgeshire. Bedfordshire. Northamptonshire (*lobatum*).

SEVERN.—Stoneleigh; Allesley; Hollyberry end and Wyken  
lane (all with *lobatum*), and elsewhere, Warwickshire.  
Herefordshire (*lobatum* as *lonchitidioides*). Near Bristol,  
Gloucestershire (with *lobatum*). Knightwick, Worcester-  
shire, *E. Lees*, *B.S.L.* Staffordshire (*lobatum* as *lonchiti-  
dioides*). Mannington near Cherbury, Shropshire (*lobatum*  
as *lonchitidioides*).

S. WALES.—Tenby, Pembrokeshire, *E. Lees*, *B.S.L.* Carmar-  
thenshire. Glamorganshire (*lobatum*).

N. WALES.—Anglesea (with *lobatum*). Wrexham, Denbighshire  
(*lobatum*). Llyn-y-Cwm, Carnarvonshire.

TRENT.—Leicestershire (with *lobatum*). Mansfield; Papplewick,

- Nottinghamshire (with *lobatum*). Matlock, Derbyshire (with *lobatum*). Lincolnshire (*lobatum*).
- MERSEY.—Gateacre near Liverpool; Hail wood (with *lobatum*), &c., Lancashire. Prenston, Cheshire (with *lobatum*).
- HUMBER.—Halifax; Castle Howard woods; Richmond; Studley; Roche Abbey, *G. F. Young, B.S.L.*; Settle; Ripon; Doncaster; York; Ingleborough (in most instances with *lobatum*), Yorkshire.
- TYNE.—Hexham and Scotswood Denes, Northumberland (*lobatum*). Cawsey Dene, &c. (with *lobatum*), Durham, *R. Bowman, B.S.L.*
- LAKES.—Airey Force, *H. Fordham, B.S.L.*, &c. (with *lobatum*), Cumberland. Westmoreland.
- W. LOWLANDS.—Drumlanrig; Nithsdale; and other parts of Dumfriesshire (with *lobatum*), *P. Gray*. Kircudbrightshire (with *lobatum*), *P. Gray*. Renfrewshire. Lanarkshire (with *lobatum*).
- E. LOWLANDS.—Edinburghshire (with *lobatum*). Pease Bridge, &c., Berwickshire (with *lobatum*).
- E. HIGHLANDS.—Glen Phee, Clova mountains, and other parts of Forfarshire (*lobatum*). St. David's Fifeshire, *B.S.E.* Glenfarq near Perth, Perthshire. Kincardineshire (*lobatum*). Aberdeenshire (*lobatum*). Morayshire (*lobatum*).
- W. HIGHLANDS.—Isles of Islay (with *lobatum*) and Cantyre (with *lobatum*).



N. HIGHLANDS.—Ross-shire (*lobatum*).

ULSTER.—Glen Colin (with *lobatum*), Malone (with *lobatum* as *lonchitidioides*), Belfast, Antrim.

CHANNEL ISLES.—Jersey.

POLYSTICHUM ANGULARE, *Presl.*

PENINSULA.—Lynmouth ; between Totness and Ashburton, Devonshire. Near Bath, Somersetshire.

CHANNEL.—Stubbington ; Uplands ; Cattisfield, and elsewhere, Hampshire. Isle of Wight. Dorsetshire. Wiltshire. Patching ; Findon, &c., Sussex.

THAMES.—Panshanger ; Hatfield Woodside ; Colney ; Watford ; Totteridge, Hertfordshire. Sturry, and elsewhere, Kent. St. Martha's, near Guildford, Surrey. Epping, *J. Ray, B.S.L.* ; Springfield, Essex.

OUSE.—Norfolk. Huntingdonshire.

SEVERN.—Bristol ; Forest of Dean, *E. Lees, B.S.L.*, Gloucestershire, *H. K. Thwaites, B.S.L.* Stoneleigh ; Berkeswell ; Hearsall, &c., Warwickshire. Ross, Herefordshire. Eartham, Worcestershire, *E. Lees, B.S.L.* Staffordshire. Shropshire.

S. WALES.—Tenby, Pembrokeshire, *E. Lees, B.S.L.* Gower, Glamorganshire, *C. Conway, B.S.L.* Cardiganshire.

N. WALES.—Conway, Carnarvonshire. Denbighshire.

TRENT.—Matlock, Derbyshire. Leicestershire.

MERSEY.—Prescott ; Hail wood, Lancashire. Cheshire.

HUMBER.—Edlington Crags, near Adwick ; Roche Abbey, *J. F. Young, B.S.L.* ; Halifax, *R. Leyland, B.S.L.* ; Richmond ; Heckfall woods ; Elland, and other parts of Yorkshire.

LAKES.—Loughrigg Fell ; Ambleside, Westmoreland. Isle of Man.

E. LOWLANDS.—Peasebridge, Berwickshire.

ULSTER.—Blackstaff lane ; Colin Glen, Belfast, Antrim.

CONNAUGHT.—Arran Isles, Galway.

LEINSTER.—Tinnahinch, Wicklow, *C. C. Babington, B.S.E.*

MUNSTER.—Clonmel, Cork, *J. Sibbald.*

CHANNEL ISLES.—Jersey.

### POLYSTICHUM LONCHITIS, *Roth.*

OUSE.—[Cambridgeshire.] [Northamptonshire.]

S. WALES.—[Glamorganshire.]

N. WALES.—Clogwyn-y-Garnedd ; Cwm-Idwal ; Twll-du ; Gwylder-Vawr ; above Llanberis, Carnarvonshire.

HUMBER.—Langcliffe near Settle ; Attermine Scar ; Giggleswick, Yorkshire.

TYNE.—Falcon Clints, Teesdale ; Mazebeck Scar, Durham.

LAKES.—[Cumberland.]

W. LOWLANDS.—[Lanarkshire.]

E. HIGHLANDS.—Ben Lomond, Stirlingshire, *F. Bossey, B.S.L.*  
Ben Lawers ; Craig Challiach ; Glen Lyon, *G. Lawson* ; Ben Chonzie near Crieff, *Dr. Balfour, B.S.E.* Perthshire.



Canlochen ; Glen Isla ; Glen Phee ; Glen Dole, &c., in the Clova mountains, Forfarshire. Aberdeenshire. Morayshire.

W. HIGHLANDS.—Ben Voirlich, Dumbartonshire. Mountains near Loch Erricht, Inverness-shire. Ben More, Isle of Mull.

N. HIGHLANDS.—Raven rock near Castle Leod, Ross-shire. Ben Hope, *B.S.E.* ; Assynt, Sutherlandshire.

N. ISLES.—Hoy-hill, Orkney (1,600 feet), very rare, *T. Anderson*.

ULSTER.—Glen E. of Lough Eske ; Rosses and Thanet mountain passes, Donegal.

CONNAUGHT.—Glenade mountain, Leitrim. Ben Bulben, Sligo.

MUNSTER.—Brandon mountain, Kerry.

#### PTERIS AQUILINA, *Linnaeus*.

The most common of our Ferns, dispersed over the whole of England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland ; ascending to an elevation of 1,470 feet. It is also common in the Orkneys ; and is found in the Hebridean Islands of N. Uist, Harris, and Lewis.

#### SCOLOPENDRIUM VULGARE, *Symons*.

PENINSULA.—Cornwall. Devonshire. Nettlecombe (var. *polyschides*, and *Sir W. C. Trevelyan's* var.), &c., Somersetshire.

CHANNEL.—Fareham (vars. *undulatum* and *polyschides*), Hampshire. Isle of Wight. Sussex. Dorsetshire. Wiltshire.



- THAMES.—Hertfordshire. Middlesex. Kent. Surrey. Berkshire. Buckinghamshire. Oxfordshire. Essex.
- OUSE.—Suffolk. Norfolk. Cambridgeshire. Bedfordshire. Huntingdonshire. Northamptonshire.
- SEVERN.—Warwickshire. Gloucestershire. Herefordshire. Worcestershire. Staffordshire. Shropshire.
- S. WALES.—Brecknockshire. Pembrokeshire. Glamorganshire. Carmarthenshire.
- N. WALES.—Anglesea. Denbighshire. Carnarvonshire.
- TRENT.—Leicestershire. Nottinghamshire. Derbyshire.
- MERSEY.—Cheshire. Lancashire.
- HUMBER.—Yorkshire (with var. *undulatum*).
- TYNE.—Northumberland. Durham.
- LAKES.—Cumberland. Westmoreland. Isle of Man.
- W. LOWLANDS.—Dumfriesshire. Kircudbrightshire. Wigtonshire. Ayrshire. Renfrewshire. Lanarkshire.
- E. LOWLANDS.—Edinburghshire. Berwickshire.
- E. HIGHLANDS.—Fifeshire. Forfarshire. Kincardineshire. Aberdeenshire. Nairnshire. Morayshire.
- W. HIGHLANDS.—Argyleshire. Isles of Islay, Cantyre, and Skye.
- N. HIGHLANDS.—Sutherlandshire.
- N. ISLES.—Isles of Rowsay, Orkney, rare, *R. Heddel*. Shetland.
- CONNAUGHT.—Galway. Arran Isles. Sligo.

LEINSTER.—Dublin.

MUNSTER.—Cork. Kerry.

CHANNEL ISLES.—Jersey.

TRICHOMANES RADICANS, *Swartz.*

HUMBER.—[Supposed to have been formerly found at Bellbank, near Bingley, Yorkshire.]

LEINSTER.—Hermitage glen ; Powerscourt waterfall, Wicklow.

MUNSTER.—Glendine wood, and Glenbour, Killeagh, near Youghal ; Temple Michael glen, and Ballinhasy glen, near Cork. Turk waterfall, Killarney ; ravine of Cromaglaun mountain ; Mount Eagle, near Dingle ; Gortagaree ; Blackstones in Glen Caragh ; Inveragh ; Curraan lake, Waterville, *C. C. Babington, B.S.E.*, Kerry.

WOODSIA HYPERBOREA, *R. Brown.*

N. WALES.—Clogwyn-y-Garnedd, Snowdon, Carnarvonshire.

E. HIGHLANDS.—Ben Chonzie, near Crieff, *Dr. Balfour* ; Catjaghiamman, Ben Lawers ; Mael-dun-Crosk ; Craig Challiach, Perthshire. Glen Isla, *Dr. Balfour* ; Glen Phee, Clova mountains, *Dr. Balfour*, Forfarshire.

WOODSIA ILVENSIS, *R. Brown.*

N. WALES.—Clogwynn-y-Garnedd ; Llyn-y-cwm, on Glyder Vawr, Carnarvonshire.



HUMBER.—[Yorkshire.]

TYNE.—Falcon Clints, and Cauldron Snout, Teesdale, Durham.

LAKES.—Westmoreland.

W. LOWLANDS.—Devil's Beef-tub, and hills north of Moffat,  
*P. Gray*. Hills dividing Dumfries and Peeblesshires, abundant,  
*W. Stevens*.

E. HIGHLANDS.—Ben Chonzie, near Crieff, Perthshire, *Dr. Balfour*.  
Glen Phee, Clova mountains, Forfarshire, *J. Backhouse*.

#### LYCOPODIUM ALPINUM, *Linnæus*.

PENINSULA.—Somerset, *A. Southby*.

CHANNEL.—Hampshire.

SEVERN.—[Shropshire.]

S. WALES.—Brecon beacon, Brecknockshire. Glamorganshire.  
Plinlymmon, Cardiganshire.

N. WALES.—Flintshire. Denbighshire. Llanidloes, Montgomeryshire.  
Cader Idris, Merionethshire. Cwm-Idwal; Glyder Vawr; Carnedd David, Carnarvonshire.

TRENT.—Derbyshire.

MERSEY.—Micklehurst, Cheshire. Todmorden; Fo-edge; Mottram; Cliviger, Lancashire.

HUMBER.—Ingleborough; Sowerby; Cronckley Fell; Scarborough, &c., Yorkshire.



- TYNE.—Falcon Clints, and elsewhere in Teesdale, Durham. S.E. of Crag lake; Cheviot, Northumberland.
- LAKES.—Kirkston, and other parts of Westmoreland. Great Gable; Ennerdale, and other parts of Cumberland. Conistone, N. Lancashire.
- W. LOWLANDS.—Hills W. of the vale of Dumfries. Hills above Dalscairth, Kircudbrightshire. Renfrewshire. Lanarkshire.
- E. LOWLANDS.—Roxburghshire. Lammermuirs; Lambertton moor, Berwickshire. Pentland hills, Edinburgh.
- E. HIGHLANDS.—Clackmannanshire. Kinross-shire. Fifeshire. Ben Lawers; Blair Athol; Killin, &c., Perthshire. Sidlaw hills; Glen Dole and Glen Phee, Clova, &c., Forfarshire. Bay of Nigg, Kincardineshire. Invercauld, &c., Aberdeenshire (3,600 feet). Badenoch, Morayshire. Banffshire. Nairnshire.
- W. HIGHLANDS.—Freuch Corrie, Strath Affarie; Ben Nevis (3,450 feet), &c., W. Inverness-shire. Ben Voirlich, Dumbartonshire. Ben More; Tobermorey, Isle of Mull; and other islands of the Inner Hebrides.
- N. HIGHLANDS.—Ross-shire. Ben Hope (3,000 feet), Sutherland. Morven, Caithness, *T. Anderson*.
- N. ISLES.—Hoy, Orkney, common, *T. Anderson*. Unst, Shetland.
- W. ISLES.—Langa, Harris, *Dr. Balfour*.

- ULSTER.—Belfast mountains, Antrim. Aghla; Barnesmoor; Muckish, Donegal. Mourne mountains, Down.
- MUNSTER.—Mangerton; Bandon, Kerry.

LYCOPODIUM ANNOTINUM, *Linnaeus*.

- N. WALES.—Glyder-Vawr, above Llyn-y-cwm, Carnarvonshire.
- TRENT.—Charnwood forest, Leicestershire, *A. Bloxam*.
- MERSEY.—Rumworth moss, Lancashire, *R. Withers*.
- TYNE.—[Teesdale, Durham.]
- LAKES.—Bowfell, Cumberland, *H. E. Smith*. Langdale, Westmoreland, *R. Rolleston*.
- E. HIGHLANDS.—Mountains of Perthshire, Aberdeenshire, Morayshire, and Banffshire; as Loch-na-gar, Munth Keane, Ben-na-Baird, and the Cairngorm mountains (elev. 1,500–2,550 feet). Glen Dole; Clova mountains; by Loch Esk, Forfarshire.
- W. HIGHLANDS.—Freuch Corrie, Strath Affarie, West Invernessshire. Goat Fell, Isle of Arran. Isle of Mull.
- N. HIGHLANDS.—Freevater, Ross-shire.
- N. ISLES.—Hoy hill; Rackwick, *J. T. Syme*, Orkney.

LYCOPODIUM CLAVATUM, *Linnaeus*.

- PENINSULA.—Exmoor, Devonshire. Brendon hill, and elsewhere, Somersetshire.



- CHANNEL.—Hampshire. Dorsetshire. Wiltshire. Tilgate forest, Sussex.
- THAMES.—Tring, Hertfordshire. Hampstead, Middlesex. High-down heath; Cæsar's Camp, Farnham; Woking common; between Dorking and Leith hill; Addington hills, Croydon; and other parts of Surrey. Oxfordshire. [High Beech, Essex.]
- OUSE.—Norfolk. Gamlingay, Cambridgeshire. Bedfordshire.
- SEVERN.—[Coleshill, Warwickshire.] Worcestershire. Staffordshire. Stiperstone, Shropshire.
- S. WALES.—Glamorganshire. Plinlymmon, Cardiganshire.
- N. WALES.—Cader Idris, Merionethshire. Denbighshire. Snowdon, Carnarvonshire.
- TRENT.—Charnwood forest, Leicestershire. Nottinghamshire. Denbighshire.
- MERSEY.—Todmorden; Simmons-wood Moss, Lancashire. Cheshire.
- HUMBER.—Frequent in the N. and W. Ridings of Yorkshire.
- TYNE.—Northumberland. Durham.
- LAKES.—Mountains of Cumberland. Langdale, Westmoreland.
- W. LOWLANDS.—Dumfriesshire. Kircudbrightshire. Renfrewshire. Lanarkshire.
- E. LOWLANDS.—Peeblesshire. Roxburghshire. Pentland hills, Edinburghshire. Berwickshire.
- E. HIGHLANDS.—Clackmannanshire. Kinross-shire. Fifeshire.



- Clova mountains, Forfarshire. Perthshire. Aberdeenshire. Mortlach, Banffshire. Badenoch, Morayshire.
- W. HIGHLANDS.—W. Inverness-shire. Argyleshire. Dumbartonshire. Tobermorey, Isle of Mull.
- N. HIGHLANDS.—Ben Wyvis, Ross-shire. Sutherlandshire. Morven, Caithness, *T. Anderson*.
- N. ISLES.—Hoy and Rowsay, Orkney. [Shetland.]
- LEINSTER.—Kelly's glen; Ballynascorney, Dublin co.

LYCOPODIUM INUNDATUM, *Linnaeus*.

- PENINSULA.—Cornwall. Bovey Heathfield, Devonshire. Somersetshire.
- CHANNEL.—Titchfield; Christchurch; Selborne; St. Jermyn's near Romsey, and other parts of Hampshire. Poole, Dorsetshire. Wiltshire. Sussex.
- THAMES.—Keston heath; St. Paul's Cray; Chiselhurst, &c., Kent. Godalming; Witley; Bagshot; Chobham; Wimbledon; Esher, &c., Surrey. Hampstead, Middlesex. Berkshire. Essex.
- OUSE.—Belton, Suffolk. S. Wootton; Norwich; Filby; Holt heath; Yarmouth, Norfolk. Gamlingay, Cambridgeshire. Bedfordshire. Huntingdonshire.
- SEVERN.—Coleshill, Warwickshire. Hartlebury, Worcestershire. Staffordshire.
- TRENT.—Leicestershire. Bogs by the Rainworth, Nottinghamshire. Derbyshire.

MERSEY.—Delamere forest; Thurtaston; Bagueley moor; Bidston, Cheshire. Lancashire.

HUMBER.—Stockton forest; Sandpit, Malton road near York; Norland Moor, near Halifax, Yorkshire.

LAKES.—Wastwater, Cumberland. Westmoreland.

E. HIGHLANDS.—Clunie Loch; Blair Athol, Perthshire. Ardorfie wood, Forfarshire. Cawdor Castle, &c., Nairnshire. Carse of Ardersier near Fort St. George, Morayshire.

W. HIGHLANDS.—Inverarnon; between Luss and Inverglass, Dumbartonshire.

N. HIGHLANDS.—Craig Darrock, Ross-shire. Morven, Caithness, rare, *T. Anderson*.

CONNAUGHT.—Connemara, Galway.

### LYCOPODIUM SELAGINOIDES, *Linnaeus*.

PENINSULA.—[Devonshire.]

N. WALES.—Aberffraw, Anglesea. Denbighshire. Cwm-Idwal; Clogwyn-du-Yrarddu; Llanberis; Capel Curig, Carnarvonshire.

TRENT.—Kinder Scout, Derbyshire.

MERSEY.—New Brighton, Cheshire. Near Southport; Seaforth common, Bootle, Lancashire.

HUMBER.—Cronckley Fell; Stockton forest; Settle; Richmond; York; Knaresborough; Whitsuncliffe near Thirsk, &c., Yorkshire.

- TYNE.—Middleton, Teesdale; Gateshead Fell, Durham. Prestwick Carr near Ponteland, Northumberland.
- LAKES.—Loughrigg; Fairfield; Kirkstone, &c., Westmoreland. Borrowdale; Keswick; Derwentwater; Scaw Fell, &c., Cumberland. Conistone, N. Lancashire.
- W. LOWLANDS.—Grey mare's tail, and elsewhere, Dumfriesshire, *P. Gray*. Hills above Dalscairth; Port Ling, coast of Colvend, Kircudbrightshire, *P. Gray*.
- E. LOWLANDS.—Lammermuirs; Lamberton moor, Berwickshire. Roxburghshire. Haddingtonshire. Edinburghshire.
- E. HIGHLANDS.—Stirlingshire. Clackmannanshire. Kinrossshire. Fifeshire. Craig Challiach; Breadalbane mountains (3,000 feet), Perthshire. Caulochen; Glen Dole, Clova; Sidlaw hills; Sands of Barry, Dundee, Forfarshire. Glen Callater; Deanston, &c., Aberdeenshire. Kingussie; Dalwhinnie, Morayshire.
- W. HIGHLANDS.—French Corrie, Strath Affarie, &c., W. Invernessshire. Dunoon, Argyleshire. Dumbartonshire. Banks of Loch Sligachan, Isle of Skye. Isles of Islay and Cantyre.
- N. HIGHLANDS.—Ross-shire. Sutherlandshire. Caithness, common, *T. Anderson*.
- N. ISLES.—Howton head, and elsewhere, Orkney. Shetland.
- W. ISLES.—N. Uist. Harris. Lewis.
- ULSTER.—Belfast mountains; near Larne, Antrim. Arrigal; Muckish, and other hills of Donegal. Slieve Donard; Mourne mountains, Down.



CONNAUGHT.—Hills by the Killery; Leenane; Connemara,  
Galway.

LEINSTER.—Carlingford mountain, Louth. Dublin co.

LYCOPODIUM SELAGO, *Linnaeus*.

PENINSULA.—Cornwall. Sidmouth; Dartmoor, Devonshire.  
Somersetshire.

CHANNEL.—Near Aldershot, Hampshire. Dorsetshire. Wilt-  
shire. Waldron down; Tilgate forest, &c., Sussex.

THAMES.—Highdown heath; near Cæsar's Camp, Farnham,  
Surrey. Shotover hill, Oxfordshire.

OUSE.—Felthorp heath; Holt heath, Norfolk.

SEVERN.—[Coleshill; Birmingham, Warwickshire.] Worces-  
tershire. Staffordshire. Titterstone Cleve, Shropshire.

S. WALES.—Glamorganshire. Plinlymmon, Cardiganshire.

N. WALES.—Anglesea. Denbighshire. Cader-Idris; between  
Festiniog and Llyn Cromorddyn, Merionethshire. Llan-  
beris; Cwm-Idwal, &c., Snowdon, Carnarvonshire.

TRENT.—Leicestershire. Rutland. Mansfield, Nottinghamshire.  
Above Edale Chapel, Derbyshire.

MERSEY.—Bidston, Cheshire. Woolston moss, near Warring-  
ton; Todmorden, Lancashire.

HUMBER.—Settle; Halifax; Ingleborough; Wensley Dale,  
&c., Yorkshire.

TYNE.—Falcon Clints, Teesdale, Durham. Prestwick Carr near  
Ponteland; Haltwhistle; Cheviot, Northumberland.

LAKES.—Skiddaw ; Ennerdale ; Helvellyn, Cumberland. Westmoreland.

W. LOWLANDS.—Lochan moss, Dumfriesshire, *P. Gray*. Hills above Dalscairth, and Mabie ; Criffel, Kircudbrightshire, *P. Gray*. Renfrewshire. Lanarkshire.

E. LOWLANDS.—Roxburghshire. Belford ; Lamberton moor, &c., Berwickshire. Pentland hills, Edinburghshire.

E. HIGHLANDS.—Clackmannanshire. Kinross-shire. Fifeshire. Perthshire. Glen Callater ; Stocket moor ; Ben-na-muich-Dhu (4,320 ft.) ; Loch-na-gar, Aberdeenshire. Nigg, Kincardineshire. Banffshire. Badenoch, Kingussie, Morayshire.

W. HIGHLANDS.—Ben Nevis, W. Inverness-shire. Dunoon, Argyleshire. Goat Fell, Isle of Arran. Ben More, Isle of Mull. Ben Vigors, Islay. Cantyre. Skye.

N. HIGHLANDS.—Sutherlandshire. Ben Wyvis, Ross-shire. Morven, Caithness, *T. Anderson*.

N. ISLES.—Kirkwall, Mainland, *J. T. Syme* ; Hoy, *T. Anderson*, Orkney.

W. ISLES.—N. Uist. Harris. Lewis.

ULSTER.—Devis mountain, Antrim. Arrigal ; Muckish, &c., Donegal. Slieve Donard, Down.

LEINSTER.—Dublin co.

MUNSTER.—Mangerton ; Bandon ; Carran-Tual ; Killarney, Kerry.



ISOETES LACUSTRIS, *Linnaeus*.

SEVERN.—[Shropshire.]

S. WALES.—Lake below Brecon beacon, Brecknockshire. Glamorganshire.

N. WALES.—Lakes of Denbighshire. Merionethshire. Ogwen; Llyn-y-cwm; Lakes of Llanberis, &c., Carnarvonshire.

HUMBER.—Castle Howard lake; Foss reservoir near Coxwold, Yorkshire.

TYNE.—Prestwick Carr, Northumberland.

LAKES.—Rydal, and other lakes of Westmoreland. Ulleswater; Floutern Tarn, near Buttermere; Crummock water; Derwent water; Wastwater, &c., Cumberland. Conistone, N. Lancashire.

E. HIGHLANDS.—Stirlingshire. Fifeshire. Loch Tay; Loch Lubnaig, Perthshire. Loch Brandy; Loch Whirrall, near Kettin, Forfarshire. Loch Callader, Aberdeenshire.

W. HIGHLANDS.—Loch Sloy, Ben Voirlich, Dumbartonshire. Lakes in the Isles of Skye and Bute.

N. HIGHLANDS.—Sutherlandshire.

N. ISLES.—Kirkwall (near the sea), Orkney, *T. Anderson*.

ULSTER.—Lakes in the Rosses, Donegal. Castle Blaney lake, Monaghan.

CONNAUGHT.—Lakes of Connemara.

LEINSTER.—Upper Lough Bray; Glendalough, Wicklow.



PILULARIA GLOBULIFERA, *Linnaeus*.

PENINSULA.—Roche; Marazion marsh, near Penzance, Cornwall. Blackdown; Polwhele, Devonshire. Maiden down, Somersetshire.

CHANNEL.—Lymington; Holt forest; Southampton; Badderley, Hampshire. Between Corfe Mullein and Poole; Sandford bridge near Wareham, Dorsetshire. Warminster, Wiltshire. Piltown; Charley North, common; Quaybrook near Forest Row; Chiltington, Sussex.

THAMES.—Northaw, Hertfordshire. Iver heath; Hounslow heath; Hillingdon, Middlesex. Esher common; near Reigate; Walton-on-the-hill; Henley Park, Pirbright; Roehampton, Surrey.

OUSE.—Hopton, Suffolk. Filby; St. Faith's Newton; Yarmouth, Norfolk. Hinton bog, Cambridgeshire, *J. W. G. Gutch, B.S.L.* Fen near Peterborough, Northamptonshire.

SEVERN.—Coleshill Pool, Warwickshire. Staffordshire. Bommere pool, Shropshire.

S. WALES.—Rhos Goch near Llandegly, Radnorshire. Mountain pool near Pont Nedd-Vechn, Glamorganshire. St. David's head, Pembrokeshire.

N. WALES.—Near Llanfaelog, Anglesea. Llyn-Idwal; Llanberis lake, Carnarvonshire.

TRENT.—Leicestershire.

- MERSEY.—Bagueley moor ; Beam heath near Nantwich ; Barlington heath ; Woove, Cheshire. Allerton, Lancashire.
- HUMBER.—Near Richmond ; Stockton forest ; Gormire pool near Thirsk ; Terrington Carr, &c., Yorkshire.
- TYNE.—Near Woosingham ; Prestwick Carr, Ponteland, Northumberland.
- W. LOWLANDS.—Dumfriesshire. Kircudbrightshire. Rotherglen, Lanarkshire.
- E. LOWLANDS.—Pentland hills ; Braid hill marshes, Edinburghshire.
- E. HIGHLANDS. — Perthshire. Slateford ; Monroman moor ; Alyth ; near Forfar, and other parts of Forfarshire. Loch of Drum, Kincardineshire. Morayshire.
- W. HIGHLANDS.—Loch Lomond, Dumbartonshire.
- N. HIGHLANDS.—Sutherlandshire.
- ULSTER.—By the Blackwater near Lough Neagh ; by the Bann, below Jackson's hall, Coleraine, Antrim.
- CONNAUGHT.—Ballinahynch, Galway.

EQUISETUM ARVENSE, *Linnaeus*.

- PENINSULA.—Cornwall. Devonshire. Somersetshire.
- CHANNEL.—Hampshire. Isle of Wight. Dorsetshire. Wiltshire. Sussex.
- THAMES. — Hertfordshire. Middlesex. Kent. Surrey. Oxfordshire. Berkshire. Essex.

OUSE.—Suffolk. Norfolk. Cambridgeshire. Bedfordshire.  
Huntingdonshire. Northamptonshire.

SEVERN. — Warwickshire. Gloucestershire. Herefordshire.  
Worcestershire. Staffordshire. Shropshire.

S. WALES.—Glamorganshire. Pembrokeshire. Carmarthenshire.

N. WALES.—Anglesea. Denbighshire. Flintshire.

TRENT.—Leicestershire. Rutland. Lincolnshire. Nottingham-  
shire. Derbyshire.

MERSEY.—Lancashire. Cheshire.

HUMBER.—Yorkshire.

TYNE.—Durham. Northumberland. Isle of Man.

LAKES.—[No record.]

W. LOWLANDS.—Dumfriesshire. Kircudbrightshire. Lanark-  
shire.

E. LOWLANDS.—Berwickshire. Haddingtonshire. Edinburgh-  
shire. Linlithgowshire.

E. HIGHLANDS.—Stirlingshire. Clackmannanshire. Kinross-  
shire. Fifeshire. Perthshire. Forfarshire. Kincardine-  
shire. Aberdeenshire. Morayshire.

W. HIGHLANDS.—Argyleshire. Dumbartonshire. Isles of Islay  
and Cantyre.

N. HIGHLANDS.—Ross-shire. Sutherlandshire. Caithness.

N. ISLES.—Orkney, *T. Anderson*. Shetland.

W. ISLES.—Roddall, Harris.

CHANNEL ISLES.—Jersey.



EQUISETUM HYEMALE, *Linnaeus*.

PENINSULA.—[Somersetshire.]

CHANNEL.—[Near Broadstitch Abbey, Wiltshire.]

THAMES.—[Middlesex.] Kent. Wanborough near Guildford,  
Surrey.

OUSE.—St. Faith's Newton; Arming-hall wood, near Norwich,  
Norfolk. Stretham ferry, Gamlingay, Cambridgeshire.  
Potton marshes; Ampthill bogs, Bedfordshire.

SEVERN.—Near Middleton, Warwickshire. Pencoyed, Here-  
fordshire. Moseley bog, Worcestershire. Staffordshire.  
Dell at Bitterley below the Clee hills, Shropshire.

S. WALES.—Swansea, Glamorganshire, *J. W. G. Gutch, B.S.L.*

N. WALES.—Wrexham, Denbighshire. Flintshire.

TRENT.—Grace Dieu wood, Charnwood forest; Measham, Leices-  
tershire. Nettleworth green, near Mansfield; Kirklington,  
Nottinghamshire.

MERSEY.—Near Arden hall; Lally's wood, near Over; Thurtas-  
ton, Cheshire. Mere Clough near Manchester, Lancashire.

HUMBER.—Halifax; by the Derwent near Castle Howard;  
Goadland dale near Whitby; Hackness near Scarborough;  
by the Skell near Ripon; Conesthorpe; Bolton woods,  
Wharfdale; Rigby woods near Pontefract, and many other  
parts of Yorkshire.

TYNE.—Hawthorn Dene; Castle Eden Dene, Durham. Scots-

wood Dene; Mill green; Heaton wood; Felton; Warkworth, Northumberland.

LAKES.—Sowgelt bridge, Cumberland. Westmoreland.

W. LOWLANDS.—Barnbarrock, Colvend, Kircudbrightshire. Ayrshire. Carra Lyn; Calderwood, Lanarkshire.

E. LOWLANDS.—Rosslyn; Lasswade; Dalkeith, and elsewhere about Edinburgh. Lambertton moor, Berwickshire.

E. HIGHLANDS.—Kenmore, Perthshire. Den of Airly, Forfarshire. Park; Banks of the Dee, Kincardineshire. Pittendriech; Forres, Morayshire.

N. HIGHLANDS.—Ross-shire.

ULSTER.—Antrim. Tyrone.

LEINSTER.—Powerscourt, &c., Wicklow. Wood at Leislip Castle, and elsewhere about Dublin.

### EQUISETUM LIMOSUM, *Linnaeus*.

PENINSULA.—Cornwall. Devonshire. Somersetshire.

CHANNEL.—Hampshire. Isle of Wight. Dorsetshire. Wiltshire. Sussex.

THAMES.—Middlesex. Kent. Surrey. Hertfordshire. Oxfordshire. Essex.

OUSE.—Suffolk. Norfolk. Cambridgeshire. Bedfordshire. Huntingdonshire. Northamptonshire.

SEVERN.—Warwickshire. Gloucestershire. Herefordshire. Worcestershire. Staffordshire. Shropshire.



S. WALES.—Glamorganshire. Carmarthenshire.

N. WALES.—Anglesea. Denbighshire.

TRENT.—Leicestershire. Rutland. Lincolnshire. Derbyshire.  
Nottinghamshire.

MERSEY.—Cheshire. Lancashire.

HUMBER.—Yorkshire.

TYNE.—Durham. Northumberland.

LAKES.—Cumberland. Westmoreland.

W. LOWLANDS.—Dumfriesshire. Kircudbrightshire. Renfrew-  
shire. Lanarkshire.

E. LOWLANDS.—Roxburghshire. Berwickshire. Edinburgh-  
shire.

E. HIGHLANDS.—Clackmannanshire. Kinross-shire. Fifeshire.  
Perthshire. Forfarshire. Aberdeenshire. Morayshire.

W. HIGHLANDS.—Dumbartonshire. Loch Skyros, Islay (with  
var. "*simplex*").

N. HIGHLANDS.—Ross-shire. Caithness-shire.

N. ISLES.—Kirkwall, Orkney, *J. T. Syme*.

W. ISLES.—N. Uist. Harris. Lewis.

ULSTER.

CONNAUGHT.

LEINSTER.

MUNSTER.

} Common in Ireland.

CHANNEL ISLES.—Jersey.



EQUISETUM MACKAYI, *Newman*.

E. HIGHLANDS.—Den of Airly, Forfarshire. Banks of the Dee, Aberdeenshire.

ULSTER.—Colin Glen, Belfast; “The Glens;” Calton Glen, Antrim. Ballyharrigan Glen, Londonderry.

EQUISETUM PALUSTRE, *Linnaeus*.

PENINSULA.—Cornwall. Braunton Burroughs, Devonshire (var. *nudum*). Weston-super-mare (var. *polystachion*); sands at Bream (var. *nudum*), Somersetshire.

CHANNEL.—Hampshire. Shanklin Chine and Cockleton (with var. *polystachion*); Moor town, Brixton; Easton Freshwater gate, Isle of Wight. Dorsetshire. Spye Park (var. *polystachion*); Purton, Wiltshire. Sussex.

THAMES.—Hertford; Stortford; Hitchin; St. Albans, Hertfordshire. Middlesex. Stoke; Woodbridge near Guildford, and Richmond park (var. *polystachion*), &c., Surrey. Stratford, Essex (var. *polystachion*). Oxfordshire. Essex.

OUSE.—Suffolk. Norfolk. Cambridgeshire. Bedfordshire. Northamptonshire.

SEVERN.—Harts-hill (var. *polystachion*), &c., Warwickshire. Gloucestershire. Herefordshire. Staffordshire. Worcestershire. Shropshire.

S. WALES.—Glamorganshire. Carmarthenshire. Pembrokeshire.

N. WALES.—Anglesea. Denbighshire. Conway sands, Carnarvonshire (var. *polystachion*).

TRENT.—Leicestershire. Rutland. Lincolnshire. Derbyshire. Nottinghamshire.

MERSEY—Crosby (vars. *polystachion* and *nudum*); Formby (var. *polystachion*); Broadbank (var. *nudum*), Lancashire. Cheshire.

HUMBER.—Aldingham (var. *nudum*), and elsewhere, Yorkshire.

TYNE.—Durham. Northumberland.

LAKES.—Westmoreland.

W. LOWLANDS.—Dumfriesshire. Kircudbrightshire. Lanarkshire.

E. LOWLANDS.—Berwickshire. Roxburghshire. Edinburghshire.

E. HIGHLANDS.—Stirlingshire. Clackmannanshire. Kinrossshire. Fifeshire. Kincardineshire. Morayshire. Breadalbane mountains, Perthshire (vars. *polystachion* and *nudum*). Sands of Barry, Forfarshire (var. *nudum*). Braemar (var. *polystachion*), and elsewhere, Aberdeenshire.

W. HIGHLANDS.—W. Invernessshire. Argyleshire. Isles of Islay and Cantyre.

N. HIGHLANDS.—Caithness. Rossshire.

N. ISLES.—Orkney, common, *T. Anderson*.

W. ISLES.—Roddal, Harris.



- ULSTER.—Logan canal (var. *polystachion*); near the Giant's Causeway, Antrim. }  
 CONNAUGHT. } Abundant in Ireland, especially  
 LEINSTER. } in the north.  
 MUNSTER. }  
 CHANNEL ISLES.—Jersey.

EQUISETUM SYLVATICUM, *Linnaeus*.

- PENINSULA.—Devonshire. Somersetshire.  
 CHANNEL.—Parsonage Lynch, Newchurch; Apse heath, Isle of Wight. Dorsetshire, Wiltshire. Sussex.  
 THAMES.—Bell wood, and Bayford wood, Hertfordshire. High gate, Middlesex. Kent. Burgate, Godalming, Surrey. Bagley wood, Berkshire. High Beech, Essex.  
 OUSE.—Suffolk. Norfolk. Chesterton; Madingley wood, Cambridgeshire. Bedfordshire. Northamptonshire.  
 SEVERN.—Arbury; Mosely bog near Birmingham, Warwickshire. Gloucestershire. Herefordshire. Worcestershire. Staffordshire. Benthall Edge, Shropshire.  
 S. WALES.—Hafod, and about the Devil's bridge, Cardiganshire. Carmarthenshire. Neath, Glamorganshire, *E. Lees, B.S.L.*  
 N. WALES.—Near Bala, Merionethshire. Denbighshire.  
 TRENT.—Leicestershire. Rutland. Southwood near Calke Abbey; Cromford moor, Derbyshire. Aspley wood; Southwell, Nottinghamshire.



MERSEY.—Cheshire. Hurst Clough, Manchester; Egerton near Bolton, and elsewhere, Lancashire.

HUMBER.—Huddersfield; Arncliffe woods; Castle Howard; Settle; Richmond; Leeds; Whitby; Forge Valley near Scarborough, &c., Yorkshire.

TYNE.—Morpeth; Hexham, Northumberland. Durham.

LAKES.—Ennerdale, &c., Cumberland. Westmoreland.

W. LOWLANDS.—Dumfriesshire. Kircudbrightshire. Renfrewshire. Lanarkshire.

E. LOWLANDS.—Houndwood; Langridge Dean, Berwickshire. Rosslyn wood and elsewhere, Edinburgh. Roxburghshire.

E. HIGHLANDS.—Clackmannanshire. Kinross-shire. Banks of Bruar, Blair Athol; Vicar's bridge; Breadalbane mountains, Perthshire. Montrose; Craig, &c., Forfarshire. Fifeshire. Woodstone hills, Kincardineshire. Aberdeenshire. Cawdor, Nairnshire. Morayshire.

W. HIGHLANDS.—W. Inverness-shire. By Loch Fine, Argyle-shire.

N. HIGHLANDS.—Ross-shire. Sutherlandshire.

N. ISLES.—Orkney. Shetland.

W. ISLES.—Roddal, Harris.

ULSTER.—Antrim. Londonderry, Donegal.

CONNAUGHT.—Oughterard, Galway.

LEINSTER.—Stagstown, Dublin co. Wicklow.

EQUISETUM TELMATEIA, *Ehrhart.*

PENINSULA.—Cornwall. Undercliff near Sidmouth, &c., Devonshire. Somersetshire.

CHANNEL.—Hampshire. Luccomb cliff, &c., Isle of Wight. Dorsetshire. Wiltshire. Hastings, Sussex.

THAMES.—Hertfordshire. Hampstead, Middlesex. West Farleigh, Kent. Reigate; Norwood; Godalming, Surrey. Oxfordshire. Berkshire. Buckinghamshire. Coggeshall, Warley, Essex.

OUSE.—Ipswich, Suffolk. Norfolk. Cambridgeshire. Bedfordshire. Northamptonshire.

SEVERN.—Woods near Arbury hall, Warwickshire. Gloucestershire. Worcestershire. Staffordshire. Shropshire.

S. WALES.—Glamorgan. Carmarthenshire. Pembrokeshire.

N. WALES.—Anglesea. Denbighshire. Bangor, Carnarvonshire.

TRENT.—Leicestershire. Derbyshire. Nottinghamshire.

MERSEY.—Poulton; Arden hall, Cheshire. Broadbank near Coln; Todmorden; Manchester, Lancashire.

HUMBER.—Arncliffe wood and elsewhere, Yorkshire.

TYNE.—Hawthorn Dene, Durham. Morpeth, Northumberland.

LAKES.—Cumberland. Westmoreland.

W. LOWLANDS.—Renfrewshire. Lanarkshire.

E. LOWLANDS.—Lamberton, between Berwick and Ayton, Berwickshire. Rosslyn and various places about Edinburgh.

E. HIGHLANDS.—Montrose; banks of S. Esk, Forfarshire. Kincardineshire. Aberdeenshire.



W. HIGHLANDS.—Campbelton, Argyleshire. Islay. Arran.

N. ISLES.—[Orkney.]

ULSTER.

CONNAUGHT.

LEINSTER.

MUNSTER.

} Frequent in Ireland.

CHANNEL ISLES.—Jersey.

EQUISETUM UMBROSUM, *Willdenow.*

MERSEY.—[Near Mere Clough, Manchester, Lancashire.]

HUMBER.—Yorkshire.

TYNE.—Wynch bridge, Teesdale, Durham. Near Felton ;  
Warkworth, Northumberland.

LAKES.—Westmoreland.

W. LOWLANDS.—Bonnington woods ; woods near Corra Lyn ;  
Finglen near Glasgow, Lanarkshire.

E. LOWLANDS.—Woods on the banks of the Esk below Auchin-  
denny, Edinburghshire. Woodcock dale ; Belleryde, *W. H.*  
*Campbell, B.S.E.*, Linlithgowshire.

E. HIGHLANDS.—Campsie Glen, Stirlingshire. Castle Camp-  
bell woods, near Dollar, Clackmannanshire, *J. T. Syme.*  
Woods near Dunfermline, Fifeshire. Glen Tilt ; Ballater ;  
Lethen's dene, Ochils ; Glen Devon, Perthshire. Ravine  
of the White-water, Glen Dole, Clova ; banks of the Isla,  
Den of Airly, below Reeky Lyn, *G. Lawson* ; Canlochen,



Glen Isla ; by the Caledonian Canal, near Forfar, Forfarshire. Aberdeenshire. Banffshire. Morayshire.

ULSTER.—Mountain glens of Antrim ; as at Wolfhill, and Glendoon near Cushendall.

EQUISETUM VARIEGATUM, *Weber and Mohr*.

PENINSULA.—Salcombe Cliff, Sidmouth, Devonshire. [Somersetshire.]

MERSEY.—New Brighton, and near the Magazines, Cheshire. Bootle sands ; Southport ; Waterloo near Liverpool (var. *arenarium*), Lancashire.

HUMBER.—Aysgarth force, Yorkshire, *B.S.E.*

TYNE.—Widdy bank ; Wynch bridge ; Middleton, Teesdale ; and elsewhere near the Tees, Durham. Northumberland.

LAKES.—By the Irthing, at Gilsland, Cumberland.

W. LOWLANDS.—Lanarkshire.

E. LOWLANDS.—Near N. Berwick, Haddingtonshire.

E. HIGHLANDS.—Sands of Barry, Dundee, Forfarshire (var. *arenarium*). Banks of the Dee, Kincardineshire (with var. *Wilsoni*).

N. HIGHLANDS.—Tain, Ross-shire, *B.S.E.*

LEINSTER.—Portmarnock sands ; Royal canal (var. *Wilsoni*), both near Dublin. Wicklow, *D. Moore*.

MUNSTER.—Ditch at Mucruss, Killarney, Kerry (var. *Wilsoni*).

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## APPENDIX.

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POLYPODIUM ALPESTRE, *Sprengel*.—The Alpine Polypody.

This plant has exactly the habit and appearance of *Athyrium Filix-femina*; and hence Mr. Newman, in proposing to make it the type of a new family group, has called it *Pseudathyrium alpestre*. It is a very elegant plant, the fronds reaching from a foot to a foot and a half high, and growing terminally from a short creeping rhizome. The fronds are lance-shaped, narrowed to the base, and twice pinnately divided. The pinnæ are lanceolate, acuminate; the pinnules lanceolate, acute, and deeply pinnatifid, with oblong sharply-serrated segments. The sori are produced either at the sinus of the lobes of the pinnule, and thus form two distinct and distant lines parallel to, and on each side the midrib; or the little lobes bear about four sori, disposed in a row, on each side their midvein, and so near together as to become confluent into one mass.

This species, hitherto known as a native of Switzerland, has been gathered by H. C. Watson, Esq., in the Highlands of



Scotland. It was found so long since as 1841, but, from its close resemblance to *Athyrium Filix-femina*, has not been till just now recognized; and it is probable that it may have been gathered by many persons in many parts of the Highlands, and passed by as the commoner species. The ascertained localities have been thus obligingly communicated by Mr. Watson:—Mountains near Dalwhinnie, Inverness-shire, 1841. Great Corrie of Ben Alder, Inverness-shire, 1841. Canlochen glen, Forfarshire, 1844.

This plant is no doubt the *Aspidium alpestre* of Hoppe; and is also the *Aspidium rheticum* of Swartz, and *Polypodium rheticum* of Woods, according to Newman. There is, moreover, reason to believe it is the *Polypodium rheticum* of Linnæus, and if this can be satisfactorily settled, the name *rheticum* must supersede that of *alpestre*. It has been already mentioned that Mr. Newman constitutes it a new genus—*Pseudathyrium*.

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## ADDITIONAL SYNONYMS.

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The following names have been published, or more prominently adopted, since the preceding pages were printed:—

*Athyrium Filix-femina* (p. 87) is *A. incisum*, Newman.

*Athyrium Filix-femina*, var. *convexum* (p. 89), is *A. convexum*, Newman.

*Athyrium Filix-femina*, var. *latifolium* (p. 90), is the *A. ovatum*, Roth, according to Mr. Newman; but we do not concur in this opinion.

*Athyrium Filix-femina*, var. *molle* (p. 90), is *A. molle* (Roth), Newman.

*Cystopteris fragilis*, var. *Dickieana* (p. 108), is *C. Dickieana* (Sim), Newman.

*Cystopteris montana* (p. 109) is *C. Allioni*, Newman.

*Lastrea cristata* (p. 116) is *Lophodium Callipteris*, Newman.

*Lastrea cristata*, var. *uliginosa* (p. 121), is *Lophodium uliginosum*, Newman.

*Lastrea dilatata* (p. 123) is *Lophodium multiflorum*, Newman.

- Lastrea Filix-mas* (p. 126) is *Lophodium Filix-mas*, Newman.  
*Lastrea fœnisecii* (p. 129) is *Lophodium fœnisecii*, Newman.  
*Lastrea glandulosa* (p. 125) is *Lophodium glanduliferum*, Newman,  
and *L. glandulosum*, Newman.  
*Lastrea Oreopteris* (p. 131) is *Hemestheum montanum*, Newman.  
*Lastrea rigida* (p. 132) is *Lophodium fragrans*, Newman.  
*Lastrea spinulosa* (p. 134) is *Lophodium spinosum*, Newman.  
*Lastrea Thelypteris* (p. 136) is *Hemestheum montanum*, Newman.  
*Polypodium calcareum* (p. 146) is *Gymnocarpium Robertianum*,  
Newman.  
*Polypodium Dryopteris* (p. 148) is *Gymnocarpium Dryopteris*,  
Newman.  
*Polypodium Phegopteris* (p. 150) is *Gymnocarpium Phegopteris*,  
Newman.  
*Polypodium vulgare* (p. 152) is *Ctenopteris vulgaris*, Newman.  
*Pteris aquilina* (p. 163) is *Eupteris aquilina*, Newman.
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