



## FERNS FOR THE HOUSE.

**T**HE delicate and tender nature of many of the prettiest and most graceful growing varieties of this beautiful and interesting class of plants, prevents their being used very extensively for house decorative purposes. The dry, arid atmosphere of dwelling houses induced by artificial heating, more especially in winter, being particularly destructive to the delicate texture and formation of the fairy-like fronds of many varieties of ferns.

Ferns thrive best in a moist, humid atmosphere, and although these conditions cannot be given them to the same extent in a dwelling house as in a conservatory or greenhouse, or even where ferns are found growing amidst their natural surroundings, still much pleasure and satisfaction can be obtained by selecting suitable varieties, and by modifying as much as possible the unnatural conditions that surround all plant life in a dwelling house. In fact many varieties can be kept fresh and bright looking, grown as house or window plants, much longer than many varieties of foliage plants commonly used for house decorative purposes.

It would be a waste of time and energy to endeavor to grow the delicate *Adiantum* and

similar tender species of ferns under ordinary conditions in a dwelling, or even in a window, the finely formed lobes of their tender fronds being particularly susceptible to the dry atmosphere, if even they succeed in making any progress at all in the way of growth.

Probably amongst the almost innumerable species and varieties of ferns known to floriculturists, there are none better adapted for house or window culture than the many types of the *Pteris* fern, sometimes called feather ferns from the close resemblance many of these ferns have to the formation of a large feather.

The long whip-like, half drooping fronds of *Pteris serrulata*, and the crested varieties of this *Pteris*, such as *Pteris cristata* and *Pteris winsetti*, with the tips of their hard glossy green fronds more or less covered with the moss-like formation that give them the common name of crested ferns, are perhaps amongst the easiest grown and most enduring types of the *Pteris*, especially when grown as house or window plants.

*Pteris cretica* or Cretan *Pteris*, is another variety that succeeds well in a dwelling house and is quite as easily grown as any variety of *Pteris*, in fact many prefer it to