

an immense number of varieties of this beautiful class of plants, principally natives of the Cape of Good Hope; some of the specimens were really fine, I should think, at least, six feet in circumference, and covered with bloom. Going on we enter the *Palm House*, the central house of the range, 40 feet high. When I was there they were erecting a new palm house which, from appearance, would be nearly 100 feet high. The palm house contains noble plants of the *Great Fan Palm* of South America; the *Date Palm*, supposed to be the palm tree of Scripture, and the plant which produces the dates of commerce. There is also growing in this house the well-known *Cocoa Nut* tree, and the *Plantain* tree, bearing large bunches of ripe fruit, weighing from 20 to 30 lbs. Leaving this department we enter the *Cactus House*, containing a very large collection of this tribe of plants, many of them very large. I also noticed fine specimens of *Euphorbias*, large American *Aloes*, *Staphelia* or Carrion Flower, and *Strelitzias*. Walking along we come to a large stove filled with miscellaneous selections of plants which require a pretty high temperature to grow them well. The *Sugar Cane* thrives well, also the *Coffee tree*, *Cinnamon tree*, and the *Banyan tree*, sending out roots from the branches inclining towards the earth, into which they fix themselves, becoming in a short time strong supports; I also noticed a very remarkable tree in this house, the *Lace Bark tree* of Jamaica, whose inner bark, without any artificial preparation, resembles beautifully wrought lace. Another curious plant grows here, the *Skeleton Plant*, the skin of the leaf appears to be removed and nothing left but a web of veins resembling coarse lace. Proceeding on we enter the Orchidaceous and Fern House—a fine sight to see such a collection of these rare and curious plants. I shall just notice a few that attracted my attention as I passed along,—the West Indian Butterfly Plant, (*oncidium Papileo*) looks like a large locust with wings expanding; the Dove Plant, (*Peristeria Elata*) resembling the form of a dove in miniature; another remarkable plant, the Moth Plant, (*Phalarnopsis amabilis* and *Grandiflora*.) We have also here the South Sea Island *Bread fruit tree*, bearing its fruit abundantly. I observed the *Sarracinia Purpuria*, our Canadian Pitcher Plant, which is cultivated with great care. The Moving Plant is also a great curiosity, the leaves are constantly in motion, raising up and falling down alternately. Passing on we enter the large Central Conservatory, which contains a miscellaneous selection of Cape of Good Hope Plants; some remarkable *Tree Ferns*, probably from 8 to 10 feet high, natives of Australia. Celery leaved and Fern leaved Pines, very strange looking plants. The next house we enter contains a mixed collection of hardy green house plants.

We now come to the last house of the range,

called the *Camellia* and *Azalia* house, which contains a fine and extensive selection of *Camellias* and *Azalias*. The white and scarlet tree *Rhododendrons* of Nepaul. Leaving this house, we walk out into the Flower Garden, which is very tastefully laid out and kept in the very best order.

The *Rookery* and aquarium form part of the ornamental grounds. The Botanical department of the Garden seems to be well managed, and the *Arboretum* contains a large and interesting selection of shrubs and trees. There is connected with the garden a Botanical Museum for the reception of all useful and interesting vegetable products in their raw state.

These Gardens are liberally supported by Government, and are a great ornament and attraction to Dublin, which is truly a magnificent city; the environs, comprising the extensive Phoenix Park, and the Vice Regal Residence, are particularly picturesque. The Glassnevin Garden, in point of arrangement and management, reflects great credit on the able and scientific curator, Mr. Moore, who has done much to advance the art of horticulture in Ireland. There is also a Botanical Garden attached to the extensive grounds of Trinity College, which is specially arranged for the practical teaching of Botany, and is much frequented by medical students.

Leaving Ireland, I would now take a glance at some of the rare plants in the Royal Botanical Gardens of Kew, the vicinity of London. The beauty and extent of these grounds and of the plants and trees which they contain attracts, as may be supposed, great crowds of visitors. I derived much pleasure and instruction from my visits to Kew.

I shall have to be very brief in any remarks I make, and I would just say that my memory is not sufficiently retentive to remember all the fine plants I saw in these noble Gardens, but having before me the published *Guide* to the Gardens, I am enabled to recall to mind many of the noble specimens that attracted my attention. The first house we enter is the Conservatory, filled with Australian trees and shrubs. Here you will see the *curious* Hand Plant, (*Cheirostmon Platanoides*) with leaves resembling those of the Plane tree, and stamens resembling a man's hand.

The next house we enter is called the *Orangery*. I did not observe any orange trees; the house is used for protecting in the winter large and half-hardy trees and shrubs, especially tender pines; the most of them were out on the lawn when I was there. Proceeding on we enter the Tropical aquarium; the large circular tank contains a fine specimen of the *Victoria Regia*, and other water plants. We now enter the Great Palm house, occupying an area of 362 feet long, the centre is 100 feet wide, and 66 feet in height; the whole is built of iron, stone, brick, and sheet glass. The extent of glass for covering this vast building is