

THE CULTIVATION OF OUR NATIVE ORCHIDS.

By J. H. C. DEMPSEY, Hamilton, Ont.

About four years ago I was shown a specimen of *Cypripedium pubescens* by Dr. Douglas Storms, of Hamilton. Often as I had been rambling around the mountain and ravines in our neighborhood, I had never found it; but I made up my mind to discover its retreat, no matter how secluded. So one Sunday a couple of friends joined me in an expedition up the ravine leading from the "Valley Farm," where Mr. Hendrie keeps his racing stable near the Valley Inn on the Waterdown road. We came on it in all its glory, a truly fairy flower, with its canary-colored sabot, and its red-veined corkscrew sepals standing straight out. It looked so odd, so out of place, that being unacquainted with it before we declared it more beautiful than any rose. It proved quite plentiful in this particular spot, the shade was not too dense, and the sun flickered through the foliage, the land had been undisturbed, saving that the big forest trees had been thinned out; and just enough space and light and sunshine for their proper growth and to paint the blossoms in their brightest hues, and not have them looking sickly from being in too much shade.

Through the ravine ran a stream, and about thirty feet up the hillside on a substratum of red clay with a top soil of leaf-mould it grew. Occasionally we found a stem with two blooms on it. On the hill-top, in an oak wood, we found the "bird-on-the-wing," a lovely lavender-pink orchid-colored flower much like an orchid. We brought away about thirty plants of *Cypripedium pubescens*, and next year they all bloomed and some have borne seed. I planted them in a fern bed in a shady spot where they got the sun part of the day for a few hours, as I have found them under similar conditions.

Since finding *Cypripedium pubescens* I have found *Cypripedium parviflorum* at Lake Medad and planted it on similar ground, and it was in blossom last year about the end of April, and grows successfully and multiplies.

Last year I went for a drive with some friends to a concession back of Lake Medad about three miles, and found the *Cypri-*