FIG. 2220. *PTERIS SERRULATA*.

ially suitable for indoor culture is the dwarf growing Polypody. This fern is almost evergreen in character and differs but slightly either in form or habit from the English Polypody (*Polypodium vulgare*) both of which are most enduring ferns as house or window plants. I have used specimens of both the Canadian and English Polypody for house decorative plants for several years past, the plants having in almost every case retained their fresh bright appearance for two or three months without any more care or attention than is usually bestowed on the best house plants, viz.: *Aspidistras*, *Cordylines*, palms, etc., a fact that certainly placed them high in my estimation as house plants. It is easy enough to secure a plentiful supply of the native Polypody, as it grows freely in almost every part of Canada, more especially amongst rocks and stones. Used solely as an occupant of the fern pan or as a pot plant, or mixed in with other kinds of ferns, these varieties of the Polypody are a valuable addition to the list of ferns suitable for house or window culture.

Another stronger and coarser growing fern, useful for house decoration or for the greenhouse, is the *Aspidum falcatum*, or as it is sometimes catalogued *Cyrtomium falcatum*, another iron-clad fern capable of

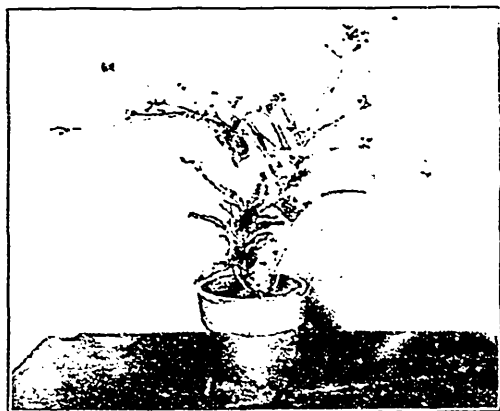
resisting for a longer period than most ferns the atmospheric condition unsuitable to plants, usually found in a dwelling house.

Many other varieties of ferns could be mentioned as being suitable for house or window culture, but those given will be found sufficient to make a variety to supply quite a large window or for house decorative purposes.

A word or two perhaps on the culture and care of ferns may perhaps be acceptable.

There are very few ferns but delight most of all in soil of a light, porous nature. A compost should be made of one-half well rotted, clean leaf mould, the other half to be made up in equal parts of sharp, fine sand and loamy potting soil, the latter being enriched with a small quantity of dry pulverized cow manure. Mix this compost well together before using.

From the fact that ferns like plenty of moisture at the roots and around about them, the mistake is often made of not giving the pots they are to grow in a plentiful supply of drainage. This latter feature is very necessary when potting ferns or filling fern pans, as ferns will not live, to say nothing of thriving, in a sodden soil soured by stagnant water, especially when placed in a window or dwelling house. Use fully an

FIG. 2230. *PTERIS WIMSETTII*.