

Ground-spruces which we weave into festoons for similar purposes or use as a setting of contrasting green for the wild flowers which we gather when foliage is scarce.

These running evergreens adorn almost every grove and wood. Scarcely a wayside coppice without their pretty tracery, and many a mossy bog-surface is covered by a network of their vines. From early spring-time until snow comes and covers them in their winter sleep, these pretty plants lend ornament to wood and swamp, irresistibly appealing to our appreciation of the beautiful in Nature.

Little children, lads and maidens, twine the running stems to ornament their hats; florists use their tufted branches to emphasize the charm of colour, shape and outline of blossoms in bouquets; and, when times of rejoicing come and homes and places of assembly are to be decorated, to add to the atmosphere of festivity, we bring into service the trailing Christmas-Green and Running Pine.

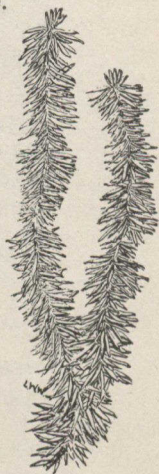


Fig. 2 *Lycopodium lucidulum*, Michxl. Shining Club-moss.



Fig 3 *Lycopodium obscurum* T. Ground-Pine.

Naturally, flowering plants have a larger clientele of admirers and students, but few persons can resist the charms of Ferns. Next to those latter in point of favour come the Club-mosses. These are very aristocratic plants, of ancient lineage, tracing their ancestry back to the earliest appearance of terrestrial plants upon the earth. In the *Lepidodendron* and *Sigillaria* (so abundant in the coal measures of the carboniferous period of geologists) we have the ancient allies or ancestors of our humble Club-mosses. These, the monarchs of the forest primeval, attained a height of one hundred feet or more. Their trunks measured three feet in diameter, and