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V. Notice of Palm House in the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh

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15. <i>Scolymus grandiflorus</i> .
<i>Statice globularis</i> .	23. <i>Orobanche rubra</i> (parasitic
on the roots of <i>Thymus</i>
<i>Serpyllum album</i>).
16. <i>Gypsophylla arenaria</i> .
<i>Illecebrum verticillatum</i> .	24. <i>Campanula floribunda</i> .
17. <i>Campanula Rainerii</i> .
<i>Convolvulus sabateus</i> .	25. <i>Campanula Hostii albiflora</i> .
18. <i>Teucrium corsicanum</i> .	26. <i>Micromeria Douglassii</i> .
<i>Yucca angustifolia</i> .
20. <i>Erica ramulosa</i> .
<i>Teucrium canum</i> .	<i>Campanula isophylla alba</i> .
21. <i>Bellium minutum</i> .
<i>Erica cinerea atropurpurea</i> .	27. <i>Hypericum Coris</i> .
<i>Veronica salicifolia</i> .	28. <i>Convolvulus sericeus</i> .
<i>Cypella Herbertii</i> .
22. <i>Acæna pulchella</i> .	<i>Sedum cyaneum</i> .
23. <i>Erica ciliaris</i> .
<i>Gentiana asclepiadea alba</i> .	29. <i>Funkia coerulea alba</i> .
	30. <i>Symphyandra pendula</i> .
	31. <i>Scabiosa Gramuntia</i> .

V. *Notice of Palm House in the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh.* By JOHN SADLER (Plate IV.).

The Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh was founded in 1670, but for many years it contained no glasshouses for the cultivation of exotic plants. In 1788 it possessed only one greenhouse and two small stoves. In 1820, on its removal to its present site, the hothouse and greenhouse accommodation was greatly increased. In 1834 a large Palm stove was added, at a cost of upwards of £1500. This at the time was the largest house of the kind in Britain. It was in form an octagon, being 60 feet wide and 47 feet high. It was admirably suited for the growth of the Palms, but these in the course of a few years outgrew the dimensions of the house. In 1855 the Regius Keeper, Professor Balfour, after many strong representations, succeeded in getting a sum of £6000 voted by Parliament for the erection of a new building. In 1858 this new Palm stove was completed, at a cost of £6500. It is built to the west of the old stove, and contiguous to it, so that the two form one building. The sides of the new house, as well as those of the old, are substantially built of sandstone, and the roof is formed of cast-iron curvilinear rafters. The form is that of a parallelogram. Its length from north to south is 96 feet 6 inches; its width from east to west is 57 feet, or, including the old house, 120 feet; and its height is 70 feet 6 inches.

It has been found that a considerable amount of stonework in such a building is preferable to iron, as a more equal temperature can be maintained, and more shade, which is so essential for the proper growth and development of many social species, is secured. The stone sides of the stove form an arcade 35 feet high all round, having the outside relieved by pilasters and entablature of the Tuscan style—the arches being filled in with glazed cast-iron frames. The glazed roof forms a handsome dome of two stages, each $17\frac{1}{2}$ feet high. The lower one rises from the top of the sides to half the height of the roof, where a base is formed for the upper one. There are two galleries inside which project from the base of each of the two divisions of the dome. To the lower gallery the public are admitted, and from it a beautiful view is obtained of the tropical vegetation.

The stove is heated by hot water from four cast-iron saddle-boilers, on the Curator's (Mr M'Nab's) improved and patented principle. The iron pipes connected with these boilers are of 5-inch bore, and are 1316 feet in length. The Palms are grown in round wooden tubs—the larger ones resting on small iron rollers, and some of them measuring from 20 to 30 feet in circumference. Many of the Palms are large and healthy specimens. One magnificent tree of *Livingstonia chinensis* is 45 feet high. This genus was named by the late Robert Brown in compliment to Patrick Murray, Baron of Livingstone, who by a liberal supply of plants assisted in founding the Edinburgh Garden. The great leaves of *Arenga saccharifera* reach the height, in one plant, of 60 feet, and in another 50. The following are also large plants—*Sabal umbraculifera*, *Caryota urens*, *Euterpe montana*, *Seaforthia* (*Ptychosperma*) *Cunninghami*, *Corypha australis*, *Acrocomia aculeata*, *Phoenix sylvestris*, and *Elia guinensis*. A considerable number of species have flowered and fruited freely.

[The Society is indebted to the proprietors of the "Gardeners' Chronicle" for the Plate.]

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PALM STOVE IN THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN, EDINBURGH: VIEW OF WEST FRONT AND SOUTH END.