

NOTES ON ORCHIDS CULTIVATED IN CEYLON

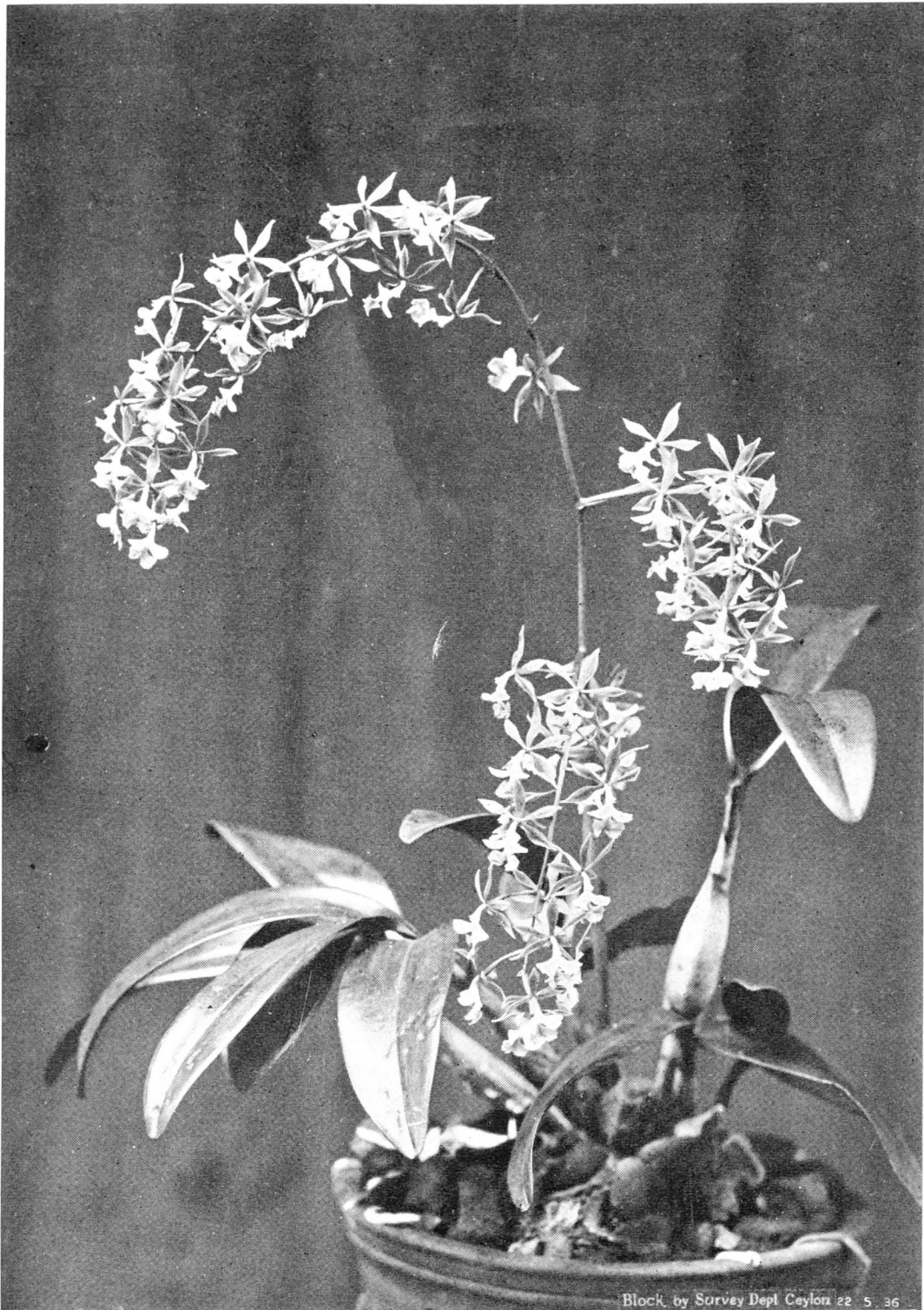
EPIDENDRUM STAMFORDIANUM, BATEM

EDWARD PERERA,

CURATOR, HENERATGODA BOTANIC GARDENS, GAMPAHA

THIS is a handsome spotted-flowered species of very distinct character, being one of the few which produce a radical inflorescence. It has fusiform pseudobulbs a span long, tapering below into a slender scaly foot-stalk, and terminated by three or four oblong obtuse coriaceous leaves 6 or 7 inches long; the peduncle rises from the base and bears a large many-flowered panicle of fragrant blossoms which are $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches across, of a bright yellow tinged with green, thickly decorated with blood-red spots, those of the petals being larger and fewer than those of the sepals, while the lip has the lateral lobes creamy-white and the front lobe yellow, the latter being sparingly spotted; the sepals and petals are lanceolate, the lip three-parted, flat, the lateral lobes large oblong, the middle one transversely oblong, emarginate and fimbriate; the type is described as having a vivid violet spot at the base of the lip, while in the variety *pictum* there is a crimson line down the centre of that organ. There are two varieties of this plant, one having much brighter coloured flowers than the other; the best form is characterised by having longer and thinner bulbs than the other. The flowers last for a considerable time in perfection.

Culture.—Pot culture is the best for these species, the drainage however must be perfect with about half the pots or pans filled with potshreds. They require the same treatment as the Cattleyas. A season of rest is very advantageous to the plants, causing them to flower more freely and to grow more vigorously afterwards. They are propagated by dividing the plants.



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