

FIG. 2736. CHRYSANTHEMUM—MAUD DEAN.

ing gardeners of China and Japan. In the latter country it is the national flower, and may be seen upon all the modern Japanese coins. The "kiku," as it is there called, is also one of the crest badges of the imperial family, and is used on the official seal. On the ninth day of the ninth month it held the annual "Feast of Chrysanthemums," when, it is said, the people not only revel in the beauties of the "mum" but feast on a cold slaw made of its petals. To some unknown Dutch voyager is probably due the honor of first introducing it into Europe. This was about the end of the seventeenth century, but it was not until the second decade of the present century that the flower came into general cultivation.

The first seedling raised in Europe was in 1827, and the first chrysanthemum show held in England was at Norwich in 1829.

New varieties were from time to time brought in by the tea ships, and the list of varieties under cultivation increased each year. The first plants of the Pompon section were sent to England in 1846 by Robert Fortune, a collector for the Royal Horticultural Society, and in 1860 he introduced the first varieties of the Japanese type. From that time to the present the interest in its cultivation has steadily increased.

Just when the chrysanthemum was introduced into America we do not know, but the first chrysanthemum exhibit for prizes on this continent was held at Boston in 1861, under the auspices of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. In 1868 it was styled a chrysanthemum show. These shows are now common annual occurrences throughout the country. The chrysanthemum

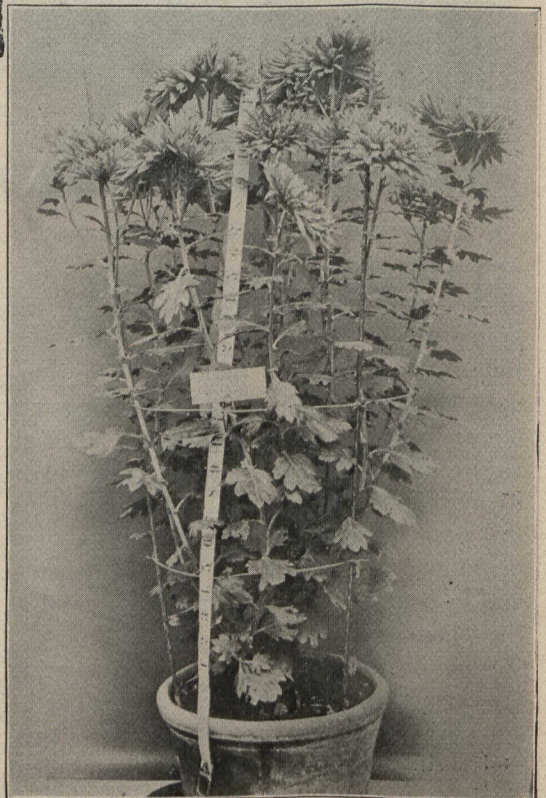


FIG. 2737. CHRYSANTHEMUM—N. H. LINCOLN.