

GARDEN AND ORCHARD.

DAHLIA.

The Dahlia is the grandest autumn flower we have. Nothing is its equal in any respect in September and October. It is in its glory when everything else is faded or fading, and surrenders only to the Frost King. Put Dahlia tubers on the ground when the season becomes warm, covering the neck some three inches. If many shoots start, thin them out. After flowering and before hard frosts, take up the plants, remove the tops, dry the bulbs a little, and put them in the cellar until spring, when they can be divided and replanted. Look at them occasionally to see that they are not shrivelling from too dry an atmosphere, not starting the eye early, in consequence of too much moisture and warmth. The Dahlia is divided into three pretty distinct classes, —the ordinary *Show Dahlia*; the *Dwarf* or *Bedding Dahlia*, making a thick, compact bush only eighteen inches in height, but with flowers of full size; and the *Pompon* or *Bouquet*, with small, very perfect flowers, only from one to two inches in diameter, while the plant is of nearly the common size. Our engraving (for which we are indebted to Mr. J. A. Simmers, the well known seedsman of this city), shows the character of the standard class.



DAHLIA.

HENS IN THE GARDEN.

Under the above caption Mr. L. G. Brown, of New Hampshire, tells the readers of the *German-town Telegraph* that he last year let his hens and chickens have their full freedom in his garden, allowing them to pick and scratch at their own sweet will. When he ploughed or cultivated the fowls were always on hand to pick all the insects brought to view. He covered his seeds a little deeper than usual, had some of them scratched up and destroyed, but enough of them came up to give a full supply of plants. In the fall he made an estimate of damage sustained and concluded that one dollar would pay the loss, while the benefit from having insects destroyed he believed was worth at least ten dollars. We are willing to admit that hens, and especially young chickens, are useful in a garden or orchard; but we would certainly provide a yard where they could be confined at such times as they might do more harm than good by having their full liberty. We are not quite ready yet to deliver the whole premises over into the care of the hens and chickens. Hens scratching in the lawn and chickens roosting in the chairs on the piazza are not according to our ideas of good taste.

STOCK IN ORCHARDS.

The *Western Rural* makes the following pertinent remarks: Of all stock in orchards the pig takes the lead. His omnivorous instinct leads him at once to duty and usefulness. Our most injurious insects are hidden in the imperfect fruit which falls prematurely, and when left as it commonly is will bring forth and multiply to an alarming extent. In all secluded nooks and corners, old piles of rubbish and bunches of brush, grass and weeds which grow up abundantly form the insects' paradise. The pig possesses a wonderful degree of push, search and research; in fact there is nothing so finely hid that his constant search will not find out, upset, turn over, root to pieces, scatter, tramp out of existence. And if the old sod needs stirring up and renovating, he will do it without being coaxed or told. He is a willing servant in his place, and that is in the orchard from spring till time of gathering and then immediately after.

ONE of the recommendations of the Education Department to the trustees of every rural school section and incorporated village in Ontario is that the first Friday in May should be set apart for the purpose of planting shade trees, making flower beds, and otherwise improving and beautifying the school grounds. Last year an Arbour Day was suggested to trustees by a circular from the Minister, issued on the 16th of April, and in the annual report recently issued we see it stated that the response was very cordial, and all but unanimous. The inspectors report that in addition to the planting

of trees, many school yards were sodded, fences repaired, walks laid, and flower beds arranged, thus adding to the beauty and attractiveness of the school yard. The total number of trees planted was 30,648, and the number of flower beds made was 253. This is a good beginning, and if kept up from year to year it will form no mean part in the education of our boys and girls. Provision is made in the new regulations, as stated above, for an annual Arbour Day in all the rural and village schools. It is a good idea, and we should like to see every farmer in the country observe the day for the same object on his own farm.

REMEMBER, if the garden is to pay for the labour expended on it, it must receive a bountiful supply of manure.

It is a noticeable fact that the fruit growers who cultivate but a very few acres usually reap the largest rewards as compared with the extent of their efforts.