

THE CHRYSANTHEMUM

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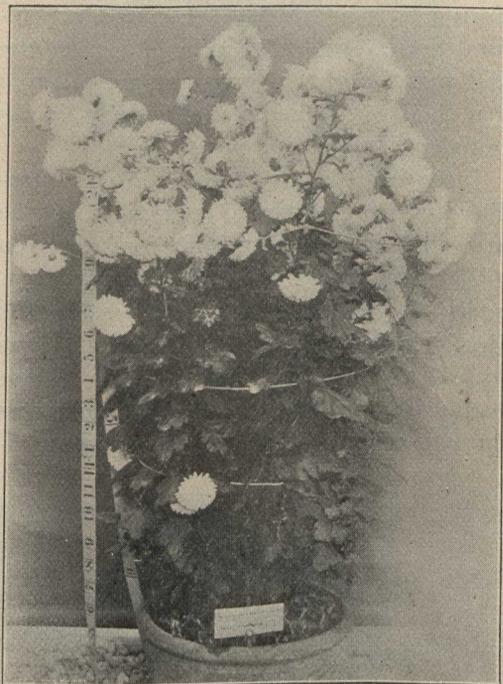


FIG. 2734. CHRYSANTHEMUM—ROSE TRAVENA.

THE chrysanthemum, or "Mum," as she has been rudely nicknamed, has been justly called by one writer "The Autumn Queen," and by another "The Star-eyed Daughter of the Fall." Coming into bloom in the month of November when all nature in our northern clime seems to be in its most sorrowful mood, I sometimes think this grand flower has been given as a compensation for the loss of summer friends, and to help us to be bright and cheerful at the Thanksgiving season.

That increased attention which is being yearly paid to its cultivation shows that its popularity must be based upon real merit. One writer has said that "the transcendent merit of the chrysanthemum lies in its almost limitless variety of form, texture and

color of flowers." To this I think might be added the ease with which it may be cultivated. It is not now the flower of the florist only, but it is being more generally grown throughout the country in the homes of amateurs.

ITS HISTORY.—Very little that is new can be said of its history, yet something along this line may be of interest. The chrysanthemum has had its origin from one, or perhaps two, small, single-flowered species of plants native in Eastern Asia, their nearest relatives in this country being the disreputable ox-eye daisies. For many centuries before it was introduced into Europe or America it was cultivated, improved, and brought to great perfection by the painstaking



FIG. 2735. CHRYSANTHEMUM—IVORY.