

In our plate will be found one species taken from each of four different genera, which may be considered as types, shewing the style of growth and of the flowers of each of these genera. And yet, so varied are the forms in each genus, that no one species will give any adequate idea of the numerous changes in appearance which are wrought out in nature, while retaining the same structural habit. Were we persuaded that any considerable number of our readers are interested in this department of Flora's domain, instead of only presenting them with an engraving of one species from each genus, we would devote several numbers of the *Horticulturist* to the illustration of these curious plants, giving a number of species from one genus on each plate.

The Mamillarias, which in our plate is represented by *mamillaria pectinata*, is an exceedingly interesting genus. Many species, says Mr. Blanc, resemble exquisite pieces of mechanism finished with the greatest minuteness and accuracy. Others would seem to have undergone a kind of crystallization, the whole surface being frosted over with star-like spiculæ arranged with geometrical precision, while yet others appear as if covered with finest gossamer. The spines of *M. fulvispina* are ivory white at the base, turning to purple towards the point, and regularly curved towards the top of the plant. *M. senilis* has such delicate spines that it resembles a ball of raw cotton. The flowers of *M. pectinata* as will be seen from the engraving are large, being nearly three

inches in diameter when fully expanded. The exterior sepals are of a reddish green, the interior sepals yellow, with a dark midrib; the petals of a beautiful sulphur yellow. *M. pusilla* has yellowish white flowers, with a red stripe through the centre of each petal. The flowers of *M. Rhodantha* are bright rose, and those of *M. Wrightii* are bright purple. It is impossible in the brief space at our command to give anything like an exhaustive description of the many species that are included in this genus, but enough has been said to shew that there is a great variety in the appearance of the plants and the color of the flowers.

In the genus called *Anhalonium*, we have some most curious forms. Perhaps the most interesting of them all is the one known as *Anhalonium fissurata*, an excellent representation of which will be found in our plate, so good, indeed, that further description is unnecessary.

We have selected one of the so-called Torch Cactus to represent the genus *Cereus*, a genus that includes some of the most wonderful and some of the most beautiful of the Cactus tribe. This genus embraces two distinct groups of species; the one group grows erect, with rigid stems, some of them attaining a height of from forty to sixty feet; the other group has slender, trailing stems. In the latter group is found the celebrated night-blooming *Cereus*, of most delicious perfume, yet as evanescent as it is beautiful, fading before the morning.

The genus *Echinocereus* is repre-