



FIG. 2742. "Mum" in six-inch pot, ready for second check.

stem with the fingers and tipping the plant out, it should be repotted into a pot one or two sizes larger, from which size it should be potted into a six or eight inch pot, and allowed to bloom in this, though better results are obtained by getting the plant into an eight or nine inch pot a month or two before the time of bloom. When potting into any size of pot larger than four inches, an inch or so of broken pottery, brick, or charcoal should be placed in the bottom of the pot to assist drainage.

THE SOIL.—The soil for chrysanthemums,

or in fact any pot growing plant, requires considerable attention. No absolute rule can be laid down as to what mixture is the best, as soils vary so much in different parts of the country. One of the chief ingredients in any mixture should be well rotted sods or turf. We prepare this by cutting the sods in the fall, piling them upside down in a large heap, with a few layers of rotting manure throughout the heap. During the following summer the heap is chopped down and turned, and when needed for potting enough sand is added to make the mixture friable so that it will not bake in the pots. A little bone meal mixed with it at this time gives good results afterwards.

WATERING.—Many amateurs are at a loss to know how to water pot-grown plants properly. One of the best rules that can be given for the guidance of such is to withhold water until the soil begins to look dry on top, then give a thorough soaking. A florist can always tell when the plants need watering by the hollow sound that the pot gives when rapped with the knuckles. The frequency with which plants need watering depends much upon the temperature and the amount of moisture in the atmosphere, as well as upon the exposure to strong sunshine. Rain or soft water is the best. Besides watering the soil it is well to occasionally syringe the foliage, or to take advantage of nature's watering by placing the plants outside during a gentle rain.

EXPOSURE TO SUNLIGHT.—Chrysanthemums revel in sunshine. There are a few plants like the Calla lily, begonia, and fuchsia which do best when not exposed to the strong midday sun, but the chrysanthemums can hardly get too much of it, provided the temperature does not get too high accordingly. When grown in a window where the light comes all from one side, the plants should be turned every day so as to keep them growing symmetrically, otherwise they are likely to turn their backs upon the house-