

THE OXALIS.

so-called cactus dahlias, a name which seems far-fetched now-a-days. It was the color and not the form that gave the point to the comparison in the first place, and we now have a very great variety of colors in that form—colors that do not necessarily remind one of cacti. The white variety, *Mrs. A. Peart* (Fig. 1122), has a form very similar to that of the brilliant red cactus dahlia pictured in 1879. The cactus type has been kept quite pure, and of late years it has also been modified into some of the loose and

flowing forms of the Japanese chrysanthemums.

The place for dahlias is the garden.—They can never have a place in landscape gardening because the first frost kills them. I often think their strength is dissipated when they are strung along a walk or other border. Personally, I believe in flower beds, but not in the middle of a beautiful green lawn. The grass has a quiet story to tell, and if dahlias intrude they should be put out for disturbing the peace.

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MOST of our housekeepers who are flower lovers have taken pleasure in the thrift and daintiness of the old-fashioned *Oxalis rosea* and also *Oxalis alba*, which they generally know as pink and white Shamrock; but they have not discovered half the possibilities of this gem of plants. It embraces a number of species of pretty, neat growing plants, elegant in foliage and bloom, the latter being produced in great profusion, and embracing a wide range of color. It is one of the most satisfactory of bulbs for window culture. For potting, use a good rich soil with a sprinkle of sand in it, placing from one to three bulbs in a four inch pot; stand in a dark cool place for a few weeks to root thoroughly, then remove to a sunny situation in the window, or conservatory, in a temperature of about 60° Fahr. One of the best varieties for window culture is *Oxalis alba* illustrated by the accompanying cut. It will be seen that this is not the old *Oxalis alba*, but an improved *Oxalis alba*, having much larger blooms and of which the foliage branches out from a parent stem. Its dwarf, spreading habit and profuse bloom make it unsurpassed

as a table plant. Flowers and leaves fold at night and open in the morning as with the old variety; unless the plant is grown in a partially shaded situation, when the flowers remain open all night. *Oxalis Bermuda* buttercup, the newest of yellows, is of more luxuriant growth, and blooms in greater profusion than *Oxalis alba*; one bulb will be sufficient for a five or six inch pot. The flowers are of purest buttercup yellow, and of great substance. Well-grown plants have produced as many as seventy-five flower-stems, and over one thousand blooms in one season. The bulbs of this *Oxalis* have been grown in the congenial soil and climate of Bermuda, until the bulbs have attained great strength, hence the wonderful flower productiveness. I might here mention *Oxalis lutea*, a splendid large, canary yellow, of strong, upright growth; the leaves of a dull green color, with a deep purple tint on the reverse side. This, in a small pot, will materially brighten up a collection of plants. While growing, the plant should be frequently turned so that all sides may get the power of the sun, that the growth may be symmetrical. Water regularly, making sure the roots, as well as the upper