

sistent foe. If you do this, they will get to love you, and do their very best to hold up their heads in pride, and win prizes for you.

The above remarks about staging refer to the last two shows at which I was one of the judges. In conclusion, I would like to say that the days of technical objections and disqualifications are passing away, and that it would be a gracious act on the part of the Society to empower the judges to amend any amendable defect in any exhibit.

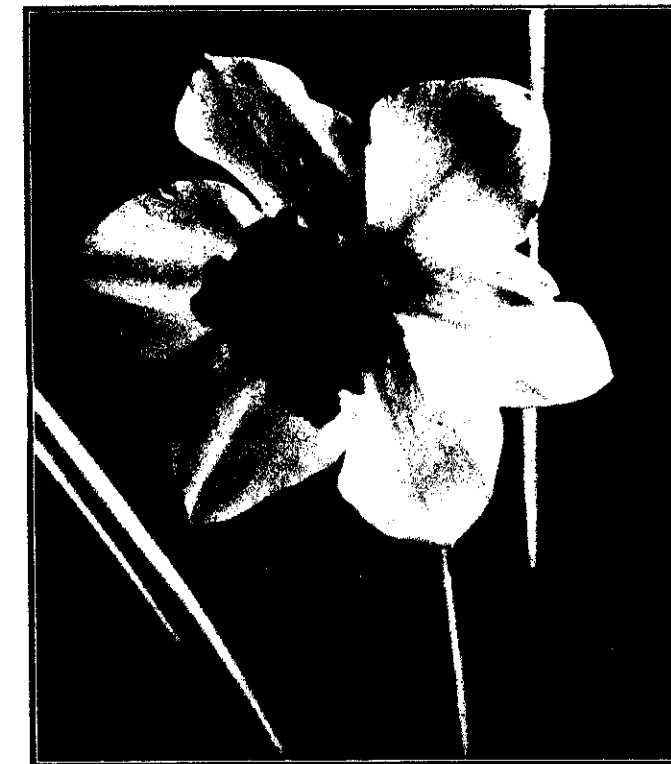


DAFFODIL, REMPERA.
One of Professor Thomas' Seedlings.

Daffodils in Wellington.

(By "A LOVER OF DAFFODILS.")

As the spring is with us again, and the flowers are beginning to brighten up the gardens after the damp, dreary winter, a few remarks about the foremost of them, namely, the daffodil, may not be amiss, and may possibly interest some of your readers. There are several things which should recommend this queen of the spring (as it may be justly termed) to the public. In the first place, it is one of the very first flowers to remind us of returning spring in Wellington and the South, and this alone should be sufficient to recommend it after the scarcity of



PROFESSOR THOMAS' SEEDLING, SOUTHERN QUEEN.
Slightly under actual size.

blooms which is felt during the winter. But this is not all, for owing to the large variety available, it is possible to keep a continuous succession of blooms for several months, say, from the beginning of July until the end of November. This much without any trouble whatever, just a matter of having the early, medium,

and late varieties by lifting a few of the early sorts, and planting them back earlier than usual, and holding a few of the late ones back, the blooming season can be extended two or three extra months.

In the second place, we will note the very large variety of form and colour

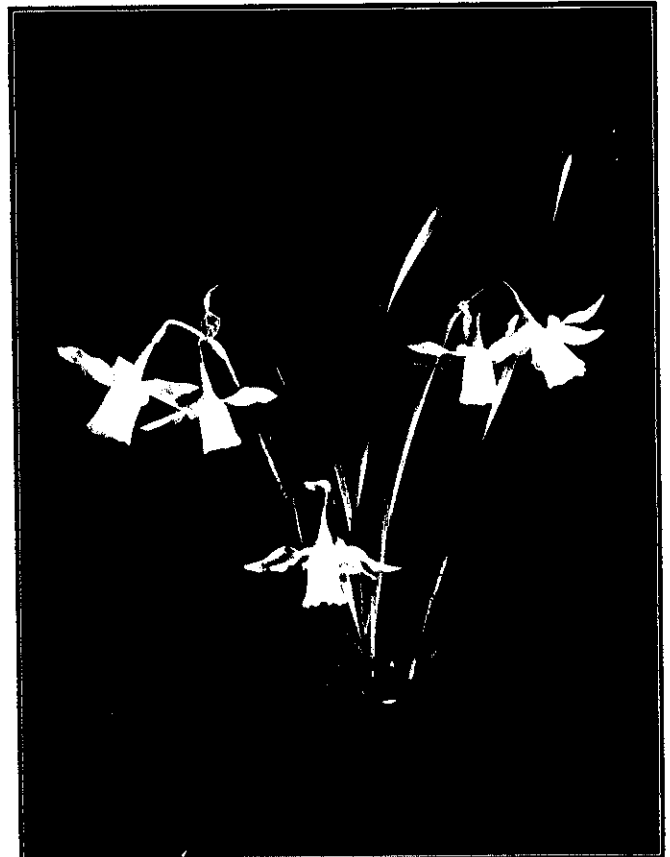
which we find among them. Some may differ from me when I say large variety of colour. It is true yellow and white are the two prevailing colours, but, then, look at the amount of shades, varying from the purest white to the palest cream, and from that to the deepest of yellow, which, blended with the very large variety of form which is to be found from the small but very highly scented *Gracilis*, of the purest yellow, with from three to five flowers, to *Her Majesty*, which is one of the best of the polyanthus. Then, from the small *Star* narcissus, such as *Ellen Barr* or *Baroness Heath*, up to the large trumpet varieties, such as *King Alfred* and *Lord Roberts*; but these two, with a few others, are rather too expensive for everyone; but there are many more good ones that would come within the reach of all. I will give a list later on of good, reliable, and cheaper sorts, but what I wish to do here is to draw attention to the enormous range of form and shade to select from, and I think all who have studied the daffodil will agree with me when I say that it is very hard to find any other single class or flower with such a large range of beautiful form and feature.

Another thing that should commend it to the public is the very hardy habit of the plant. It will thrive almost anywhere. I have seen it growing well on almost bare sand, also on very poor clay soil, such as you will find where birch and manuka have been growing. Anyone doubting this statement has only to pay a visit to a few of the gardens about Petone or to the public cemetery at the Taita in the Wellington district to convince themselves such is the case. Then, again, it is a flower that commends itself to those with the smallest of plots, for not being of a spreading or rambling nature, anyone with very small gardens, or, perhaps, only a narrow border, may still have a fairly large variety without undue crowding.

Now, we come to the subject of cultivation, which is not a very difficult one, for, as I have said, the daffodil will thrive almost anywhere. For those who have the choice, a fairly deep loam is what I find suits them very well. Ground that has been manured for a previous crop suits them, but if you have to manure them after they are planted, none but well decomposed manure should be used.



SEEDLING TRUMPET DAFFODILS
Raised by Professor Thomas.



ARIEL, A SEEDLING GROWN BY PROFESSOR THOMAS.