

The Peony-flowered Dahlia.

Dear Veronica.—Referring to the remarks of "an Auckland amateur" on the peony dahlia, published in last week's "Graphic," I am aware that many growers of dahlias have in the past taken but little interest in this new type, but I believe from what I witnessed last year at the Shrewsbury Show that the peony dahlia will become very popular. I imported a few varieties last year, and was successful in growing blooms equal to any exhibited in England. The plants were greatly admired by all who visited my garden last autumn. Many of the varieties, including the Geisha and Queen Wilhelmina (varieties no doubt new to "An Auckland Amateur"), have much stronger flower stalks than the cactus dahlia, and the plants make a gorgeous show in the border. Like other varieties of dahlias, they are not at present of much value as cut flowers, but I venture to predict that within a few years they will become very popular for planting in a large bed or border. Many of the varieties catalogued are not worth growing, as is the case with some of the cactus, the stems being too short to carry the blooms above the growth, but

has a high opinion of the future of the peony dahlia, and will be sending out some of the best varieties this season. The peony dahlia, in my opinion, has come to stay.—Yours faithfully,

H. BRETT.

NATIONAL DAHLIA SOCIETY.

September 7, 8.—Since the amalgamation of this society with the London Dahlia Union two exhibitions have been held annually. The first one, which is usually the more important event, for the present season, took place, as in former years, at the Crystal Palace on these dates. The weather was fine, and the attendance on the opening day was greater than usual.

NURSERYMENS' CLASSES.

The show varieties still take precedence in this section, and the largest class in this section was arranged for 48 blooms, distinct. There were three entries, the first prize being won by Mr. John Walker, Thame, whose best blooms

Keynes, Williams and Co., Salisbury, first and second prizes being awarded in this order. Mr. Seale's best examples were Daniel Cornish, Duchess of York, Gracchus, Chieftain, Eclipse, and R. T. Rawlings; whilst a selection of Messrs. Keynes, Williams and Co.'s varieties included Mr. Glasscock, R. T. Rawlings, Wm. Rawlings, John Walker, Keynes A1, Miss Ormonde, and Mrs. Langtry.

Fancy Dahlias.—There were two classes exclusively for fancy dahlias, and one for show and fancy dahlias intermixed. The largest class for fancies was arranged for 13 blooms distinct, and it attracted three exhibitors. Mr. John Walker secured the first prize with a good display. Outstanding varieties in his exhibit were T. W. Girdlestone, Rev. J. B. Camm Wm. Shaldou, Mrs. Saunders, M. Campbell, Comedian, and John Cocker. Second, Mr. W. Tresseder.

For 12 distinct blooms Messrs. Keynes, Williams and Co. led with a very creditable stand, having such sorts as Rev. J. B. Camm, Dandy, Mrs. Saunders, Henry Clark, Tom Perryman, Gold Crest, and Matthew Campbell. Mr. Seale followed closely, having specially good flowers of Claret Cup, Nansen, and Mrs. Saunders.

den-yellow passing to bronze at the tips), Tokyo (salmon and yellow), Arrow (bronze), Irresistible (a very heavy bloom, with incurved florets suffused with rose on a yellow ground), Snowflake (white), Viscount (brick red), Albatross (white), and Crystal (soft rose tipped with white). The other blooms included one of H. H. Thomas, which was awarded the Silver Medal offered for the best cactus-flowered dahlia in the nurserymen's classes.

There was a keen competition for 48 blooms distinct shown on boards, and Messrs. Stredwick and Sons won the premier prize with a grand stand of blooms, the 2nd prize exhibit, shown by Messrs. James Bayrell and Co., was also remarkable for its high quality.

There were two exhibits in a class for 12 varieties of garden Cactus Dahlias, 6 blooms of each variety arranged in a vase with hardy foliage in grasses, Messrs. J. Cheal and Sons and Mr. M. B. Seale were the only exhibitors; the 1st and 2nd prizes being awarded in the order of their names. Messrs. Cheal showed such sorts as Snowdon, Hon. Mrs. Grauville, Ivy Shoebridge, and Mrs. C. Foster, arranged with Eulalia zebrina, Berberis, Maples, and Asparagus.



WHITE PAEONY DAHLIA, QUEEN WILHELMINA.

there are now several peony dahlias, including the Geisha, Queen Wilhelmina, Attraction, and others, which have stiff stems, and the blooms stand out clear from the foliage. Messrs. Baker (of Wolverhampton), Debbie and Co., H. Cannell and Co., and other nurserymen have taken up the peony dahlia, and these firms exhibited some of the best and latest varieties at the Royal Horticultural Show held in London last August. The large display staged by Messrs. Baker attracted a great deal of attention. In their collection they exhibited new varieties which I have not seen, including Mrs. A. McKeller, Col. J. St. G. Wolseley, Lady Saville, and the Warrior. A report of the society's meeting published in "The Gardener," states that Messrs. T. Ware and Co. staged Mrs. George Gordon, a new variety (white) of much merit. Mr. Caleb Smith, nurseryman, Adelaide, South Australia,

were Chieftain (purplish-lilac), Blush Gem, T. W. Girdlestone (a grand variety of richest purple colour), Purple Prince, Daniel Cornish (reddish), Wm. Rawlings (crimson and purple), Mrs. Slack, Tom Jones, Mr. Glasscock, Southern Queen, John Hickling (a grand yellow variety), A. Rawlings (very choice), Standard, John Walker (one of the best of white show dahlias), Mariner, Diadem, and Mrs. Langtry (generally good in this show). Second, Mr. S. Mortimer, Rowledge, Farnham, Surrey, with large, but hardly so refined, blooms as in the first prize exhibit. Some of the best were Blush Gem, Glowworm (orange red), Pleasance, Chieftain, Tom Jones (creamy with a suffusion of pink), David Johnson, and Florence Tranter (a variety with pale-coloured florets edged with purple).

In the smaller class for 24 blooms distinct, there were two exhibitors, Mr. M. V. Seale, Sevenoaks, and Messrs.

The better of two exhibits of show and fancy dahlias intermixed was exhibited by Messrs. J. Cheal and Sons, Crawley.

Cactus Dahlias.—The most important class for cactus varieties is that in which a Silver Challenge Cup is offered for the first prize. Messrs. James Stredwick and Sons, Silverhill, St. Leonards, again proved invincible, making the eighth consecutive win. It is usual for this firm to show in this class their principal novelties for the year, and on this occasion they exhibited 11 new varieties in the display. The finest of these is named after Dr. Roy Appleton, the florets being pink with a yellow base and very pointed, giving a star-like appearance to the flower, the other new ones were H. L. Brousson (with thread-like florets, coloured dark rose passing to white in the centre), Mrs. Douglas Flemming, Golden Eagle (gol-

Pompon Dahlias.—These were shown remarkably well, Mr. Charles Turner winning in the largest class, which was for 24 varieties in bunches of 10 blooms each. He showed Annie Donaster, Darkest of All, Portia, Queen of Whites, Guinevere, Wilfred, Mary, Phyllis, Sylvia, Zerlina, Beal, Cyril, Little Mary, Ganymede, Bacchus, and others.

Single Dahlias were rather less refined than usual. There were three exhibitors in the class for 24 varieties, Messrs. J. Cheal and Sons being the most successful with good blooms of Miss Roberts, Elaine (white), Columbine, Victoria, Leslie Seale, Alice Castle, Kitty, and Miss Morland.

Peony-flowered Dahlias, shown in vases, appeared ungloriously, Geisha (reddish on orange), Bella Donna (blush) and Bayard (red and yellow). Shown in Mr. C. Turner's 1st prize group, appeared to us most.