

The cynosure of the Bletchley flowers was again Helios. Thora, the lovely pale cinnamon-cupped giant Leedsii, was shown in fair form. The soft, sulphur-clothed St. David again appeared, but something must have happened. If he were not a saint, I should have said his wife had smattered him up—his halo (I beg pardon, perianth) was so much flatter and tidier and his massive squat trumpet had lost its ungainly appearance.

**NEW DAFFODILS.**

At the London Horticultural Society's Spring Show many new varieties of daffodils were exhibited, including the "Aurelia," which is a cross between a single jonquil and the yellow trumpet daffodil, "Monarch"; the "Early Dawn," a large, white trumpet, with a remarkable orange-coloured margin; and the "Bride of Lammermoor," a beautiful cream-coloured daffodil.

**DAHLIA-GROWING AS A HOBBY**

Of all the flowers the Dahlia is perhaps most suited to the requirements of the hobby gardener, and it is when it is treated as a special subject that we find it giving the most satisfaction. The fact is, the Dahlia delights in attention and good living, and these two are essentials which appeal to amateur growers.

The Dahlia is the subject par excellence for the man who wishes to make a hobby of gardening. In the first place, the forms are as varied as anyone need wish. He may take up the simple Single, or the neat and precise Pompones, or may wish to excel in the production of immense Doubles. More likely however, he will settle on the Cactus section, as here are to be found the loveliest flowers, although perhaps the most difficult to deal with.

**THE VALUE OF DEEP DIGGING.**

Many readers have devoted a great deal of time and labour in digging out

trenches and refilling them with a whole list of ingredients, amongst which are cow manure, bonemeal, wood ashes, leaves, and so on. These preparations are carefully undertaken with the hope of producing huge Sweet Peas. Now, let me at once say that if Dahlia growers

will put the same enthusiasm into the preparation of the ground, they will be sure of a rich reward.

As my object is to explain how best to make a success of Dahlia growing, I will not cover up any of the unpleasant features, but point out at once that

there are a few drawbacks to contend with, and it is only by preparing beforehand, and by meeting them with a determination to win, that success is assured. There are matters which must be settled right away, as, for instance, the choice of a spot for their summer quarters



GOOD PYRAMIDAL SPECIMEN ZONAL PELARGONIUMS.

Left, Bertha de Prossilly, soft rose; centre, Gustave Emich, scarlet; right, Olive Schreiner, white, with red edge.



A FINE EXHIBIT OF AZALEAS, ETC., SHOWN BY MR. L. R. RUSSELL AT THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SHOW LAST MARCH, AND AWARDED A SILVER-GILT HANKSIAN MEDAL.