



THE FASHIONABLE CHRYSANTHEMUM

BY H. H. BATTLES

DURING one month of the year the chrysanthemum claims the attention of all lovers of flowers. It has

been very prettily styled "the queen of Autumn." The honor is well bestowed; she reigns so gracefully that she is constantly increasing the number of her devoted subjects. At this season of the year, when chrysanthemum exhibitions are held all over the country, chrysanthemum dinners and weddings are the fashionable "fad."

THE FLOWER AT A DINNER

WHEN a chrysanthemum dinner is held in a private house, the dining-room is seldom elaborately decorated. A touch of color on the sideboard and mantel, a few palms judiciously placed, and a little green on the mirror, caught up with several long-stemmed chrysanthemums, is in good taste. The accompanying illustration is taken from a photograph of the round table that was awarded the first prize at the New York Chrysanthemum Show last year.

At first glance, the impression is as though the table were overcrowded; this, however, was not the case, for, with the exception of plates and silver, the entire table was set with crystal glass, giving a brilliant light and beautiful effect.

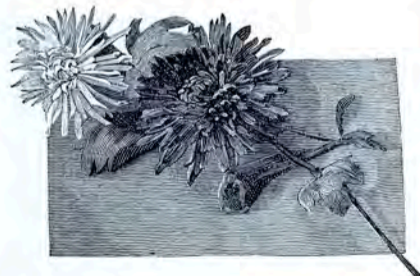
There are many things to be said in favor of a round table, and especially so if it be not so large as to suggest any impropriety in talking across it.

Very pretty effects can be produced with a round table having a hollow center. A false bottom is made about a foot below the table. This may be partially filled with moss and long-stemmed chrysanthemums, arranged very carelessly. Small fairy lamps may be placed at different heights, a little below the range of the eye. A star, made of chrysanthemums, is one of the best shapes to use for a round table. A tall vase may be placed in the center, small lamps or candelabras between the points, and a few loose chrysanthemums thrown upon the table.

The oblong table, as seen in the illustration, is, however, the shape most generally used.

A gracefully arranged band of chrysanthemums is extended around the table, following the outline, and about fifteen inches from the edge, allowing ample room for the plates, glass and silver. A cut-glass bowl, filled with chrysanthemums, may be placed in the center, but the flowers should not be arranged so high as to obstruct the view. The tall vases on the ends are most effective; large, long-stemmed chrysanthemums can be arranged in them, and so high that they come above the line of vision. The clusters for ladies are placed at the base of the large vases.

A plateau, filled with chrysanthemums, may be used for the center; large bows of ribbon, with long-stemmed chrysanthemums drawn through the knots, placed at each end, make an attractive table. In place of the



A TASTEFUL GUEST CARD

bows, monograms, made of chrysanthemums, can be used with good effect.

A bowl or vase may be placed in the center of the table, the bowl resting on china silk, gracefully arranged.

White and green effects can be most successfully produced with chrysanthemums.

A few sprays of adiantum farleyense, thrown on the white cloth, with a number of large chrysanthemums, are very effective.

If you have a fern dish, and do not wish an elaborate center piece, a few long-stemmed chrysanthemums arranged among the ferns will answer very well.

APPROPRIATE GUEST CARDS

THE illustration shows a simple, yet tasteful, guest card. Two small holes are made at right angle to the stems, and the flowers fastened on by a small piece of ribbon drawn through the holes and tied in a neat bow-knot on top. Another pretty way is to simply draw the stems of the flowers through the holes. Small easels can be made with plain cards, by using the stems of one or two small chrysanthemums as the back support, allowing the flowers to be seen at the top of the card.

The guest's name should be written on the card, and placed at the plate which designates the guest's seat. For a dinner or luncheon, several long-stemmed chrysanthemums can be caught together by a piece of ribbon, with the lady's name painted on one end.



A PRIZE CHRYSANTHEMUM DINNER TABLE

(which received the first prize at the New York Chrysanthemum Show, Madison Square Garden, last winter)

AT A LUNCHEON

AS a luncheon takes place in the middle of the day, and none but ladies attend, the decorations should be simple and dainty. It is always wise, before selecting flowers, to determine whether natural or artificial light is to be used, as the color of many flowers undergoes a decided change under artificial light. For instance, yellow chrysanthemums that seem too strong by daylight are very much softened by gaslight, and many of the pinks and reds are also very much more attractive in artificial light.

If clusters are to be placed at each guest's plate, they should be rather small, so that if the guest should care to wear them she may do so. A beautiful cluster can be made by using three or four of the white feathery chrysanthemum, "Mrs. Alpheus Hardy," with a delicately colored orchid, tied with ribbon to match.

At times, very large clusters of chrysanthemums are grouped in the center, or at the ends of the table; these should be tied with ribbons of appropriate color. A pretty effect can be produced by leaving one end of the ribbon long enough to extend to each guest's plate, on which her name can be painted. When the hostess wishes to rise, she draws her bouquet toward her, and suggests that her friends do likewise.

A very pretty arrangement for the center of the table is to make a wreath of chrysanthemums, putting a mirror in the center, and on this a cut-glass bowl filled with the long-stemmed flowers.

Wire should not be used when it can be avoided. Individual vases may be used, but only the choicest flowers should be arranged in them. As these flowers are in water, and, consequently, perfectly fresh, they will be very acceptable to your guests to take home.

A rather subdued artificial light is generally preferred. The color of the light shades should always harmonize with the flowers. Natural chrysanthemums are often pinned on lamp and candelabra shades when the heat is not too great.

FOR AN EVENING PARTY

WHEN arranging chrysanthemums for an evening party, it is wise to study simplicity. Do not put too many in one receptacle, but rather depend upon their individual beauty of form, color and grace of stem to give a pleasing effect. Bring them in conjunction with anything Japanese that you may have—vases, screens or fans.

A few long-stemmed chrysanthemums can be drawn through the sticks of folding fans, which can be placed at corners of mirrors, over pictures at the side lights. Many places will suggest themselves to one when they are decorating a room. Place some beautiful specimens in unexpected places; the little surprises often give pleasure.

If the evening party is more formal, or in the nature of a reception, the decoration should be more elaborate, and even here a few of the delicate touches are always appreciated. A few palms and chrysanthemums should be placed back of the party that receives. The chandelier and mantel should be decorated with chrysanthemums, with their natural leaves. The musicians can be partially hidden by either Japanese screens or blooming chrysanthemum plants.

The ladies who receive should carry clusters of chrysanthemums, very loosely arranged, and if refreshments are served, some gracefully arranged chrysanthemums should be on the table.

At a children's party, little clusters of chrysanthemums can be arranged in baskets, or on fans, or in one large table design. These clusters can be given to the children as they are about to depart, a custom that never fails to give the little ones pleasure.

In regard to wearing chrysanthemums as corsage bouquets at parties, receptions, or on the street, every woman is a law unto her-

CHRYSANTHEMUM WEDDINGS

MANY of the general suggestions given in the June JOURNAL in the article, "Flowers at June Weddings," will hold good for chrysanthemum weddings. All of the flowers worn or carried should be chrysanthemums excepting, possibly, the bride's bouquet, which should be made of orchids, lilies of the valley



AN ARTISTIC TABLE VASE

or white roses. The abundance of chrysanthemums in the market at this time offers many opportunities for elaborate decorations.

Many of the smaller flowers can be gotten at a very little cost; and if they be arranged loosely in the church and house many beautiful effects can be produced.

At the house it would be well to have a few especially fine specimens arranged in vases and placed in the most conspicuous places. Frequently, designs made of chrysanthemums are used at weddings. If they be desired, there are no better flowers of which to make them. Among the most popular are the wedding bells, which are frequently made in different sizes to represent chimes. They are generally hung over the place where the bridal party receives. Ropes can be made of white chrysanthemums and gracefully arranged back of the bridal party. White ribbons are often used for the same purpose. Monograms can be made of white and pink chrysanthemums. Love knots, wish bones, canopies, umbrellas, balls, etc., are frequently made.

Chrysanthemum plants can be used with good effect among the groups of palms if they be raised from the floor by placing them on stands. The effect will often be better if you cut the string and pull out the stakes that have been used while growing. This allows the flowers to fall in more natural positions.

The rich, yellow chrysanthemums have often been used with good effect for golden weddings, as other flowers of so rich a yellow are difficult to obtain.

Of recent years, chrysanthemums have undergone such marvelous improvements under the skillful hands of the cultivators, that it is very difficult to speak intelligently of the prices. They can be had, however, at any time during the chrysanthemum season at a very small cost. If they be arranged judiciously, and not massed too much, pretty effects can be had for very little money; while if you wish flowers of greater size and beauty, they can be had at such perfection that could not have been dreamed of ten years ago. The size is attained by what is known as "dis-budding;" that is, when a number of flowers naturally grow on one stem, all but one are sacrificed in the bud, allowing all of the energies of that stem to go to one flower. Plants thus treated also get more nursing and, consequently, bring much larger prices.

self. A few suggestions, however, may not go amiss.

Much depends upon the costume. If a belt is worn, the largest cluster of chrysanthemums can be worn there. If a little jacket, with a lapel and collar cut like a man's coat, the prettiest way is to wear one large chrysanthemum in the buttonhole. If it is a cold, frosty November morning, and a muff is carried, pin a few on the muff; if a severely plain tailor-made gown is worn, several handsome chrysanthemums can be carried in the hand with the portemonnaie.



AN OBLONG TABLE FOR A CHRYSANTHEMUM DINNER OF TWELVE PLATES

(Arranged by George C. Boldt, at Hotel Bellevue, Philadelphia)