

ductions I have honored the varieties with such names as Governor Roosevelt, The President, Mrs. Roosevelt, Viola Allen, James H. Manley, Robert Craig, and the Cuban patriots, General Maceo and General Gomez.

THE CARNATION IN POLITICS.

The carnation has frequently been used in a political sense. It was the McKinley emblem, and the campaign flower during the campaign which elected McKinley and Roosevelt, and during that campaign the various carnation growers throughout the country donated many thousands of flowers to decorate the button holes of those marching in the political parades. At the present time the American Carnation Society decorates the grave of the lamented President with carnations on the 29th of January every year.

The carnation is extensively used as a decorative flower. It lends itself to almost every use in which flowers are suitable. Its varied and delicate colorings, its magnificent pungent refreshing odor, and its long-keeping qualities render it probably the most valuable of all florists' flowers.

PLANT IMPROVEMENT BY HYBRIDIZATION.

By H. H. GROFF, *Simcoe, Ontario.*

The following is an abstract of the paper read by Mr. Groff:

The practical and general application of my system may be outlined as follows: In order to secure the benefits of existing material, make crosses between every available type, regardless of apparent objectionable characteristics.

Select sires from these and use on every wild species obtainable, on special and general lines, crossing and re-crossing until desirable types are produced.

Then bring the selected offspring of all wild species together in intercrossing on special lines, as each wild species will prove more useful than another in some individual feature valued by us, for specialization becomes imperative.

The result of the foregoing will be the creation of new domestic types, valuable as sires for use in revitalizing crosses on existing varieties of merit, and the production of new forms and types of unexpected quality and value.