

113  
~~DE~~

✓  
THE  
**MIDLAND DAFFODIL SOCIETY.**

UNDER THE SUPPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL AMATEUR AND TRADE  
GROWERS IN THE COUNTRY.



THE  
**FIRST ANNUAL REPORT**

FULL LIST OF AWARDS,

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS AND BALANCE SHEET

FOR 1899.

ALSO THE

**Schedule of Prizes & Rules for 1900**

BIRMINGHAM:  
PRINTED BY E. C. OSBORNE & SON 54 NEW STREET

## FIRST ANNUAL REPORT, 1899.

THE First Annual Exhibition of the Society was held at the Edgbaston Botanical Gardens on Thursday and Friday, April the 13th and 14th, and brought together a collection of flowers which was the surprise and admiration of all who visited the Exhibition, and was acknowledged to be the largest and most representative collection of flowers and growers that has ever gathered together in the United Kingdom. The trade exhibitors from all parts were well represented, Messrs. Barr and Son, of London; T. S. Ware, Ltd., London; Bath, Ltd., of Wisbech; Hogg and Robertson, Dublin; Dicksons, Ltd, Chester; Mauger and Son, Guernsey; Simpson and Son, Birmingham; Hewitt and Co., Solihull; John Pope, Birmingham; Robert Sydenham, Birmingham; J. W. Cunningham, Spalding; R. O. Backhouse, Hereford; Van der Schoot, Holland; R. Dean, Ealing; Mrs. Woodley, Aghinagh, &c.

The amateur growers were also well represented, coming from various parts of the Kingdom, and included:—Honble. Mrs. Corbet, of Hankelow; Mrs. M. B. Crawford, of Ardlamont, N.B.; Miss Willmott, of Great Warley; Miss F. Currey, of Lismore, Ireland; The Revds. G. H. Engleheart, of Andover; S. E. Bourne, of Lincoln; C. Wolley Dod, of Malpas; and J. Jacob, of Whitechurch; Messrs. F. W. Burbidge, of Dublin; I. Cooke, Shrewsbury; W. J. Grant, Newport; J. Mallender, Worksop; R. F. Mills, Chesterfield; J. T. White, Spalding; J. C. Williams and P. D. Williams, of Cornwall; H. B. Young, of Lincoln; Birmingham being represented by Mrs. Whitmore and Miss E. C. Swinden; Messrs. C. R. Bick, A. F. Bird, R. Chatwin Cartwright, A. W. Hulse, J. A. Kenrick, C. Knight, Lawley Parker, Pope and Son, E. M. Sharp, and Robert Sydenham.

Messrs. R. Van der Schoot & Son, of Holland, sent what would have been a very interesting box of Seedlings, but unfortunately not being well packed they arrived in bad condition; Messrs. Mauger & Son, of Guernsey, sent two boxes of cut bloom containing several varieties, these came beautifully packed and as fresh as though they had just been cut; a special certificate was awarded. A Class is now introduced (see Class 26) for the best packed box, with the hope of encouraging good and careful packing for market purposes.

The weather unfortunately was not what could have been desired. On the first day, just as the Show opened, there was a heavy storm

of rain, which materially affected the attendance, but in spite of these adverse circumstances, the hall was filled to almost an uncomfortable extent during the first afternoon. The second day was unfortunately one continuous rain from morning to evening, which had a most disastrous effect upon the attendance, although there were more present than could have been expected.

The handsome Challenge Cup, offered by Messrs. Barr & Sons, of London, did not bring a very strong competition, there being only one exhibitor, the Rev. J. Jacob, Whitewell Rectory, Whitchurch, Salop, but the Judges considered that although his collection was not quite up to the usual competitive standard for a prize of this sort, it had been carefully staged, and the flowers, considering the season, were very representative, and therefore awarded it the Cup.

A Luncheon was provided in a tent in the grounds on the first day of the Show, but through some misunderstanding as to the probable number attending, it was not so comfortable or satisfactory as could have been wished. This to a great extent was owing to the visitors not replying to a circular asking them to say whether they would be present. Afternoon tea was provided in the grounds, but owing to the very unfortunate weather, was not patronised or enjoyed as it would have been had the weather been fine.

A Conference was held on the second day of the Show, presided over by the Rev. G. H. Engleheart, and many good and desirable ideas were brought forward and duly discussed, the principal of which were:—

- “Should we have separate classes for local exhibitors?”
- “Should the Society be re-named ‘The National Daffodil Society?’”
- “Would not the Narcissi in pots look better and be more useful for decorative purposes if grown in pots not exceeding 6in. instead of 8½in. as at present?”
- “A class for a group of Spring flowering plants in pots arranged on the floor would have a charming effect.”
- “To form a class for beginners (those who have never taken a prize at any Daffodil show).”
- “To ask the Royal Horticultural Society to send a deputation to our next exhibition.”
- “Have premier prizes for the best bloom in each of the different sections of Narcissi.”
- “Have a separate class for the Poeticus section.”
- “Exhibitors should persuade their friends to become growers, &c.”

Mr. Sydenham hospitably entertained the majority of visitors and exhibitors at the Midland Hotel on the first evening of the Show, and amongst others present were:—Miss F. Currey, of Lismore, Ireland; the Revs. G. H. Engleheart, M.A., and S. E. Bourne; Messrs. F. W. Burbidge, M.A., of Dublin; P. R. Barr, London; C. R. Bick, Birmingham; I. Cooke, Shrewsbury; J. W. Cunnington, Spalding; Richard Dean, London; W. J. Deans (Messrs. Pope and Son), Birmingham; H. H. Doe (*Gazette*), Birmingham; W. J. Grant, Newport, Mon.; W. Gardiner (*Journal of Horticulture*), Harborne; C. H. Herbert (Messrs. Thomson and Co.), Birmingham; W. Logan (Messrs. Barr and Son), London; J. Mallender, Worksop; J. D. Pearson, Chilwell; John Pope, King's Norton; F. W. Simpson, Birmingham; A. Stiles, Spalding; J. A. Sayers (*Edgbastonia*), Birmingham; W. Spinks (Messrs. Hewitt and Co.), Solihull; T. W. Sorby, Sheffield; J. T. White, Spalding; and H. B. Young, of Lincoln.

Some interesting speeches were made, and it was suggested, amongst other things, by the Rev. S. E. Bourne, that a monthly or quarterly paper generally appertaining to Narcissi should be published; but this, owing to no one feeling disposed at present to take upon himself the responsibility of Editorship, did not meet with a very sympathetic reception.

The Committee have great pleasure in stating that the number of growers who have responded to the invitation to become members has been satisfactory, and in spite of many disadvantages in weather, the peculiar season, &c., the Society are able to begin next year with a very creditable balance. They have also promises of many new members and new subscribers, so that they look forward to the next year's Exhibition with very great hopes.

They also take this opportunity of asking all who have the cultivation of the Narcissus at heart, to do anything and everything they can to induce friends to join the Society, feeling sure that these Bulbs might and should be as well or better grown at home, than they can be abroad, and that thereby might be encouraged an industry which in some parts of the country might be and is being developed to a marked degree of success.

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE COMMITTEE,

W. HILLHOUSE,

Chairman.