

LIFE IN THE GARDEN

PRACTICAL ADVICE FOR AMATEURS

Next Week's Work

By VERONICA.

SEEDS TO SOW THIS MONTH.

FLOWER.

Anemone St. Bridgid
Calecotaria
Dianthus
Hollyhock, Double
Sweet Peas
Nemesia Struoseni Suttonii
Ranunculus Astarticus
Campanula

VEGETABLE.

Beet, Early Turnip-rooted
Carrot, Early Horn
Spinach, Prickly
Turnip, White Stone, Munch
Spradlings
Cabbage
Cauliflower
Onions

BULBOUS ROOTS FOR PLANTING THIS MONTH.

Alliums	Freesias	Ranunculus
Anemones	Hyacinths	Solms
Chionodoxa	Iris	Snowdrops
Crocus	Lily	Sparaxis
Cyclamen	Narcissus	Tulips

GENERAL GARDEN WORK.

Carnations which were layered should now be sufficiently rooted for removal to the bed or border where they are intended to flower. When lifting these layers care should be taken not to injure the young roots. Penstemons, pansies, etc., can be planted out in the border. Attend to chrysanthemums and dahlias. They will require tying up. Thin out buds where they are too numerous, and give liquid manure. In the vegetable garden continue to plant cabbage, cauliflower, and savoy. A fresh sowing of cabbage and cauliflower should be made. Tie up celery. Liquid manure will greatly benefit this crop. Pumpkins, melons, and squashes should be lifted when quite ripe and stored in an open shed, taking care not to injure the bark by rough dumping. The land which was occupied by these and similar crops should be dug, and if not wanted for cropping until spring, sow some oats or white mustard, which will keep the ground clean for the next crop. The oats or mustard can be dug in, and will make excellent green manure. If

mustard is used (and where sorrel is rampant we have found mustard the very best plant to choke it) dig in when the plant is in flower. A small quantity of superphosphate should be sown with the seed, which will then make a vigorous and rapid growth.

In the orchard now is the time to put in drains where required, and where new orchards are intended to be planted the land must be thoroughly drained. The drains, 2½ inch to 3-inch bore, are generally sufficient, and where enough fall can be got 3 to 3½ feet is a good depth to sink them. The land should, if possible, be trenched, or, if that cannot be done, dig as deeply as possible. The present month is an opportune time for sowing grass seeds on newly-made lawns, and resowing all bare spots on old lawns. The greatest care should be given to securing thoroughly clean grass seeds. Never sow weedy or light grass seeds. Lawns will be benefited by a light dressing of artificial manure. A mixture of bonedust and superphosphate is suitable.

COMING SHOWS.

Auckland Horticultural Society, Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Show, Choral Hall, April 10th and 11th.
Nelson Horticultural Society's Autumn Show — April 22 and 23 — W. H. Simpson, secretary.

Narcissus or Daffodils.

Note.—In describing Narcissus we have referred to the "perianth" and "trumpet." The latter is the long centre, funnel-like tube, and the "perianth" is the surrounding row of petals or wings.

When writing on this flower in the "Graphic" of September 14th, 1907, we promised to give cultural directions for growing at the proper season, and, in fulfilment of that promise, we shall do so in this issue. It is a well-known fact that when the cultivation of any particular flower takes hold of an individual he never seems to tire of talking about his hobby, and it is a delight to him to meet with one who has a similar fancy. Then he can talk, because his discourse is appreciated. Those who merely grow a few flowers are out of it and can only stand aside and wonder how two such men can spend so much time over a mere flower! But the pleasure is real. These enthusiasts may, by their exertions, be enabled to add to the beauty of existence, a new or improved flower which will be a source of happiness, and pleasure, not only to the raiser, but to flower lovers the wide world over. Admirers of the daffodil are numerous, but enthusiastic growers and hybridizers, so far as the Dominion is concerned, are few. It is a satisfaction to remember that in the Auckland district we have in Professor Thomas a hybridizer who is doing splendid work on the daffodil, and from whose

labours we anticipate good results. Some of our readers may recall the fine group of seedlings exhibited by Professor Thomas at the last Daffodil Show held in Auckland, an exhibit of which anyone might be proud, and which represented many years of patient waiting and watching. Daffodil hybridising is very slow work, and one could wish Methuse-



Narcissus Madame de Graaf.



Narcissus Cleopatra.

A magnificent yellow trumpet in the way of Monarch, but larger; very broad yellow perianth imbricated at base, long bold deep yellow trumpet. One of the most refined and perfectly formed of the Giant Yellow Trumpet Daffodils.

his days were one's own—our three score and ten slip past, and we with them, before we really seem to have done much. It is our sad duty to record the death of the Rev. S. E. Bourne, of Dunstan Vicarage, Lincoln. Mr. Bourne was an authority on Daffodils, and the author of a standard work on the subject. He was one of the best judges and occupied a unique position amongst daffodil experts.

The past season has brought prominently forward several very good new seedlings, notably, Frostbound; a large white trumpet, which gained first prize at the Midland Show; also Majestic, an exquisite white trumpet, raised by Mr. Crofield; Miss Clinch, smaller type, a beautiful white trumpet, raised by Mr. C. Wright. The Rev. G. H. Engleheart received a gold medal for a charming collection of seedlings, not yet on the market, but which we, no doubt, will hear more about when sufficient stock has been worked up. Corallina, an incomparable, pale sulphur perianth, very pale orange cup, shading to coral, a novel colour, was raised by Peter Barr and Sons. The new Poetaz hybrids are attracting attention in America, but we are rather doubtful if they will be popular here. These Poetaz hybrids have been obtained by crossing Poeticus Ornatus with Polyanthus Narcissus, Poeticus being the seed parent. They are bunch flowered. Individual flowers have all more or less the Poeticus shape and size, and they have not inherited that strong and to some disagreeable odour of the Polyanthus Narcissus. There are about 10 distinct varieties in this section.

PLANTING DAFFODILS.

The drier the ground when bulbs are planted the better. They should be in



Narcissus Poeticus King Edward VII.