

colour, was also in Mr. Kirker's lot, and it was a noble flower. Mr. Kirker had some good yellow trumpets, such as Admiral Togo, Admiral Makaroff, and Hamlet. Cynosure and Red Coat were shown in excellent condition, the latter having the red cup beautifully coloured.

In the collections of 30 varieties (bulbs of which must not exceed 5/ each), Mr. H. B. J. Bull had fine examples of Red Coat, Mrs. Cumm. Golden Spur, Mary Anderson Horsfieldii and Orphee (Barri)—this popular sort was in splendid condition. Mr. Rosser's lot bore evidence of having suffered considerably through wind and rain, still it contained good blooms of Red Coat, Gloria Mundi, Sulphur Phoenix, and Golden Rose (doubles).

In the class for 20 varieties (Poly. Narcissus excluded), Mr. A. E. Grindrod, who took second place, had fine blooms of Amabilis, C. W. Cowan Princeps, C. J. Backhouse, and Red Coat. For ten varieties Mr. N. R. Thomas showed Cornus, Empress, Beauty, M. J. Berkeley, and Orphee; whilst Mr. C. Hesketh had Princeps, Victoria, Cynosure, and Orphee, etc. Mr. Marriner gained the Cartwright and Goodwin prize for nine varieties. This included C. W. Cowan, Sir Walter Raleigh (very fine), Snowflake, Cabaceras, Empress, Marchioness of Loene. Polyanthus Narcissus were shown by Mr. A. Nicoll, his varieties being White Pearl, Golden Queen, States General, Mount Cenio, and Grand Soliel d'Or. These fine old sorts are now very much neglected, most growers having relegated them to the backyard.

Professor Thomas secured premier place for his seedlings—a very promising lot. We were specially taken with one named Remuera (trumpet); Massive Gold, another trumpet variety, pure golden yellow, and rose lining, apricot-tinted cup quite distinct. Some of the other seedlings were Egmont, Hillboro, The Pearl, and Marsden. We expect to hear more about these before we are much older. Some enterprising bulb merchant may induce the Professor to part with some of his choice novelties, and give growers a chance of buying a few bulbs for comparison.

Mr. Brett, of Lake Takapuna, who usually sets up a fine table of choice flowers, was not one whit behind his former efforts; indeed, in early sweet peas he has gone ahead. We counted six distinct colours of these early sorts. The hyacinth spikes were large, well-formed, and the individual bells of great size, showing good culture. Cyclamens, as usual, were excellent, whilst the stock, for variety, length of spike, and richness of colouring, were perfection, and the table was tastefully arranged and attracted considerable notice.

Messrs. C. S. McDonald and Sons (Epsom) had a tastefully arranged group of plants, which were awarded first prize. Splendid specimens of Boronias in full bloom, salvias, cyclamens, etc., interspersed with ferns, palms, etc., were some of the plants in this lot.

Mr. McFettridge had the honours for cyclamens—a fine lot of both old and new varieties. This gentleman also showed some blooms of tulips. Mr. Collins had camellias. Mr. Bull had some very good ranunculus, but anemones were rather poor.

Table decorations were exceedingly



EXHIBIT BY MESSRS. C. S. McDONALD AND SONS AT THE AUCKLAND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S SPRING SHOW.

good, showing excellent taste in arrangement and choice of colours. The floral work on exhibition from Mr. G. Maekay was one of the features of the show.

Some of the violets shown were of great size and substance, and the artistic manner in which these were used in the various devices was very telling.

grafting stems, and wild stock of the different kinds of fruit-trees to local authorities. It is a notable fact that these establishments are training schools of the best possible type, in that young men are encouraged to work on the farms for wages, and given every opportunity to learn fruit culture. As well, yearly competitions have been inaugurated by the State, in which prizes are awarded to the heads of those parish councils who can show the largest increase of fruit-tree stock in their neighbourhood. Such a system has given an enormous impetus to the question of fruit-growing on sound lines.

An Ambitious Programme.

About four years after the starting of the first State fruit farms, it occurred to some one in the Ministry that yet

Orchards by the Roadside.

How the Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture took steps to increase the number of Fruit Trees in Hungary. A Suggestion for this country.

By S. LEONARD BASTIN.

IT is, perhaps, a special failing of modern mankind to overlook the obvious. A new invention is brought forward, a fresh way of carrying on an industry is started, and the world says how strange that no one ever thought of that before. Of this there is probably no better instance to be found than the custom of planting fruit-trees by the roadside, which has proved such a remarkable success in Hungary. The origination of the idea came about as the result of a chance thought. In the



Pear Trees by the Roadside at Letchworth.

year 1892 the Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture—a very energetic body, by the way—decided that the country was not producing anything like the amount of fruit which it should do. In spite of the fact that many of the districts may be numbered amongst the best fruit-growing districts in the world, Hungary was importing an amount of this material equal to two-thirds of that grown on home soil. Accordingly, steps were taken to increase the number of trees, especially plums for drying purposes, and to this end several State farms were established for the sole purpose of supplying the various divisions with stock. In the decade from 1892-02 the number of Government orchards was more than quadrupled. These "popeneries," as they are called, distribute at a very low rate, or in certain cases free of cost, seedlings,

another way existed in which the value of fruit-growing might be brought home to the peasantry in the more remote districts. "Plant fruit-trees by the roadside in every parish in Hungary," said the proposer of the scheme, "see that these are looked after on modern lines, and then the people will find out how profitable a thing it is to grow this kind of produce. Moreover, the returns from the proceeding will be such that every district will speedily benefit to a considerable extent." Such an ambitious programme was, of course, not a thing to be carried through in a year, and it was wisely seen that the system must be gradually extended throughout the country. In Hungary the main roads are under the ownership of the State, whilst the subsidiary highways are managed by the parish and county councils.



THE CHARM OF THE DAFFODIL.

The splendid bloom on the left is Mr. J. Kirker's "Golden Bell," and on the right is Mr. Grindrod's "Codlins and Cream."