

Life in the Garden.

Practical Advice for Amateurs.

TO SECRETARIES OF HORTICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

We shall be pleased to publish dates of proposed exhibitions free of charge, and invite all Secretaries to inform us of dates by sending schedules.

March 9, 10—Napier Horticultural Society. J. H. J. Murdoch, Secretary.

Wellington Rose and Carnation Club.

CARNATION AND SWEET PEA SHOW

LOWER lovers in Wellington have become so used to storms at Christmas time, that the success of the January Show is always considered doubtful. This season has been no exception, as what the terrific storm on Christmas Day left undone, a howling nor-wester a few days later tried to accomplish.

Unfortunately carnations suffered to such an extent, that only blooms of very indifferent quality were staged at the Show held last Wednesday, while the quantity was also reduced to a minimum. So bad were the effects of these two storms, that at one time it looked as though this year's Show would have to be abandoned.

Fortunately sweet peas recover quickly, and make fresh growth very rapidly under proper care. To such an extent was this the case, that the Show just held, although essentially a sweet pea exhibition, was a pronounced success. About 500 vases of sweet peas were entered for competition, while a side exhibit of sweet peas from Mr. G. C. Holder of Porirua, containing 3500 blooms of the latest and best varieties, assisted to make the Show a memorable one.

At the three previous Summer Shows, exhibitors had quite excelled themselves in the production of "Waved Standard" varieties, but this year a wide improvement was noticeable, owing to the fact that all the peas shown, were of the

"Spencer Type," and an evenness of quality made the Judge's duties any thing but a sinecure.

Mr. C. Trevethick secured the £10 10/ trophy for 12 vases of sweet peas with waved Standards for the second time, so that it now becomes his property, Mr. G. C. Holder, of Porirua, coming second with a splendid exhibit, and Mr. H. A.

that in Mr. Fox's vase of "The King" in the Cup class, no leading flower on any spike of bloom measured less than two inches across—most of them measured 2½ inches—while on immense bloom of perfect shape measured 2½ inches across—the colour being intense crimson. The same exhibitor staged a magnificent vase of "Helen Lewis," and another of "Mrs. Hardcastle Sykes," both of which were the production of New Zealand grown seed, showing that this country can produce equally as fine seed when carefully selected as can be produced from the Old Country; in fact a great percentage of blooms come from locally produced seed, while the show as a whole was notorious for blooms measuring from 2 to 2½ inches across. Blooms of "Helen Lewis," "Mrs. Hard-

ment on Henry Eckford) were most noticeable.

Most of the sweet peas were very attractively set up, some with Perennial *Gypsophila*, and others with light grasses intermixed with the blooms, causing them to show to considerable advantage, and as all the vases were staged on tables painted green, and three tiers high, the effect was very fine.

Roses staged for competition were few in number, but some very nice blooms for this time of year competed, the same remarks applying to Cactus Dahlias.

Bellevue Gardens contributed a choice exhibit of roses and cactus dahlias, for exhibition only, while Mr. Henry Wright of Newtown showed over 100 excellent blooms of Pom Pom, Show, and Cactus



CLARA CURTIS.



TOM BOLTON.

Fox third, while Mr. J. J. Kerslake's unplaced exhibit was also well worthy of mention so good were his blooms.

Mr. G. C. Holder secured first, and Mr. H. A. Fox second in the class for 6 vases, distinct varieties of Waved Standards, Mr. Fox securing 1st in the 3 Vase Class.

As an indication of the excellence of the blooms staged, it may be remarked

castle Sykes," "John Ingman" and "Evelyn Hemus," predominated, while amongst the new varieties, "The King" (crimson), "Paradise Ivory" (cream tinged with faint pink), "Syeira Lee" (a new and beautiful shade of pink), "Mrs. Routzahil" (cream suffused pink), "Zephyr" (pale blue), and "Earl Spencer" (salmon flame), a great improve-

Dahlias, not for competition.

The displays of pot plants made by Miss Duncan and Mr. Poole were very attractive, while Messrs. Cooper and Sons', and Jackson and Sons' exhibits also added greatly to the general display.

Ladies' decorated tables occupied the centre of the hall and were greatly admired, the general public being particularly interested, as every visitor had a vote, the prizes being awarded by popular ballot.

Following, we give the prize list:—
Roses (open section).—Twelve distinct varieties: C. P. Skerrett. Six roses: C. P. Skerrett. Amateur section—Three assorted H.P. and H.T.: P. W. Skelley. Three reds: P. W. Skelley 1, C. Trevethick 2. Three assorted: R. Hirschberg 1, C. Trevethick 2. Three teas (any colour): C. Trevethick 1, P. W. Skelley 2.

Cactus dahlias (open section).—Collection six blooms, any varieties: Mrs. Abbott. Amateur section—Twelve blooms (not less than six varieties): A. J. Smith. Six blooms (other than self): A. J. Smith. Three blooms (separate varieties): H. A. Fox 1, Miss J. Taylor 2.

Sweet peas (open section).—Collection of 12 varieties, distinct, winner to hold £10 10/ trophy: C. Trevethick 1, G. C. Holder 2, H. A. Fox 3. Six varieties waved standard peas: G. C. Holder 1, H. A. Fox 2. Collection three varieties sweet peas, distinct: H. A. Fox. One vase with waved standards, white: H. A. Fox; with waved standards, pink: H. A. Fox; with waved standards, rose shade: C. Trevethick; with waved standards, orange shade: H. A. Fox; with waved standards, crimson or scarlet: H. A. Fox; with waved standards, yellow ground, pink edge: C. Trevethick; with waved standards, white ground, pink edge: C. Trevethick; with waved standards, lavender or blue shades: H. A. Fox; any other colour, J. J. Kerslake. One vase, white, cream, or yellow: J. J. Kerslake. One vase, orange shades: C. Trevethick. One vase, crimson, scarlet, pink, or rose shades: C. Trevethick.



SPECIMENS OF MRS. HARDCASTLE SYKES AND OLIVE BOLTON.