

AMATEUR CLASSES.

There was rather more competition amongst amateur exhibitors, there being in our class no fewer than 10 groups. For 24 blooms of show and fancy Dahlias, distinct. Mr H. Cooper, the Hamlet Chippendale, was placed 1st for shapely, well-coloured blooms of R. J. Rawlings, Rev. Canon H. Rawlings, Mr J. Downey, Mabel, Chieftain, Mr Peter MacFensey, H. Keith, J. Walker, Mrs Saunders, Mrs Langtry, Norma, and others.

Mr Cooper was also 1st for 12 Show Dahlias, distinct, having six competitors, his closest rival being Mr A. Robbins.

The Silver Challenge Cup, offered by the Crystal Palace Co. for six vases of garden Cactus Dahlias intermingled with suitable foliage, was won by the Rev. Arthur Bridge, Worth Rectory, Sussex, and he also carried off the Silver Challenge Cup offered for the best exhibit of nine varieties of Cactus Dahlias shown in bunches of three blooms. The flowers of Mr W. Marshall, H. H. Thomas, C. E. Wilkins, Snowdon, Prima Donna, and Indomitable were all excellent.

Mr F. H. Currey was 1st in the class for six varieties having good blooms of Wm. Marshall, Rev. T. W. Jamieson, Brigadier, C. E. Wilkins, and Evening Star.

Mr H. Peerman, Glenecross, Nantwich, excelled for 24 blooms shown on board; Mr Chas. Luckin for 12 blooms; and Mr A. P. Ironside, for six blooms.

Mr M. V. Seale showed the best six blooms of a variety of show or fancy Dahlia in Arthur Rawlings, and Mr G. Mortimer the best six blooms of a Cactus variety in C. E. Wilkins. There was very keen competition in both cases.

AWARDS.

First-class Certificates.

Minerva (garden Cactus).—A stiff-stemmed variety, the blooms being wine-crimson with yellow centre. Shown by Mr C. Turner.

Dr. Roy Appleton (Cactus).—A blush-coloured bloom with a yellow centre, very large.

New York (Cactus).—A rosy-buff coloured flower with incurving revolute florets.

Onward (Cactus).—A pink variety with twisted florets.

Sweet Briar (garden Cactus).—A variety with stout, erect stems, bearing pink flowers with white centres. These four were exhibited by Messrs. J. Stredwick and Son.

Cardinal (single).—A fiery red variety with yellow disc.

small and plain. The fringed varieties are grand subjects in any garden, but the great difficulty is to secure plants with true fringed blooms. No matter what strain of seed may be used, the percentage of good fringed flowers is small. We have found that the best way of securing these good flowers is to grow plenty of plants, single them out in boxes, and allow them to show their first blooms before planting out; by this means we are able to select the best and grow them in a bed by themselves. The result well repays the trouble.

SWEET PEA BLOOMS FOR EXHIBITION.

When flowers are required for competition, and the plants are likely to flower too early for the date of the show, pick off all the buds likely to be too forward until within ten days of the show date, then allow them all to grow. When the buds are showing freely, liquid manure may be given once or twice a week. Varieties which scald in the hot sun should be shaded with tiffany or other light material. Should dry weather set in, water the plants thoroughly; rain water is best, but if this is not available, stand the water in the sun for a day before using. Keep the surface soil loose and free from weeds.

In cutting the flowers, use a pair of scissors, and always cut when the flowers are dry. When selecting your stalks for staging, pick out those carrying most flowers, free from stain or blemish of any kind. Avoid "floppy" blooms, and select those of good form and substance, and, lastly, label your flowers carefully and neatly.

THE PERPETUAL-FLOWERING CARNATION.

At a meeting of the Scottish Horticultural Society in Edinburgh in September, Mr J. S. Brunton, chairman of the Perpetual Flowering Carnation Society, read a paper on "The Perpetual Flowering Carnation: its Past, Present, and Future." He first glanced at the historical aspect of the subject, beginning with the 16th century, when the wild *Dianthus Caryophyllus* first found a place in gardens. By the end of the same century, the plant had developed into a "border" Carnation, of which the present-day border Carnations are the direct des-

cendants. The tree or winter-flowering type, which they called Remontants, was introduced by the French, and was generally ascribed to Dubnais, who was prominently identified with their cultivation about 1844; but recent investigations have shown that Remontant Carnations were grown in the South of France nearly a century earlier under the name of Mayonnaise Carnations. These Remontants were introduced into America by Class Mare, of New York, after 1852, and other French growers in America having taken up their improvements, varieties were raised which surpassed all previous ones. The French Remont-

ants were entirely superseded, and, on the introduction of Peter Fisher's "Mrs T. W. Lawson," it was sold for the record price of 300,000 dollars.

Dealing with the present, Mr Brunton took the period from 1900 to 1910, and he asked what were the French, who in the early stages of the plant's develop-

ment had scored all along the line, doing for the Carnation? In brilliancy of colouring their flowers surpassed all others, but they had one unparadiseable defect—they were "bursters." He, however, was inclined to think that possibly we were sacrificing too much to obtain perfection of calyx, and though he was not prepared to advocate any falling away from the standard set up by British and American growers, he thought we should get some French blood into our present stocks. Dealing with the uses of the perpetual-flowering Carnation as a cut flower, a pot plant, and a bedding plant, he said that as a bedder it had found a place in a number of gardens. The growing of the plant for market purposes was one of the most important branches of commercial horticulture, and there were large areas of glass devoted to this industry in the neighbourhood of London and at Iver, Suffron Walden, Cheltenham, Dunstable, Balcombe, and other towns. In Guernsey hundreds of thousands of plants were grown for the export of flowers for the British market. On the continent of Europe, as well as in South Africa and Australia, the cultivation of Carnations was rapidly increasing, and the American trade in them was enormous.



FRINGED PETUNIA.

Should they stand the test of further trials, with respect to immunity from this disease, the hybrids will undoubtedly prove of the highest commercial value, either for their own merits or for their use in crossing with cultivated varieties. —"Gardener's Chronicle."

DWARF AND RUNNER BEANS.

HOW TO GROW THEM IN SMALL GARDENS.

Both dwarf and runner beans are very remunerative, and especially suitable for small and town gardens. Both kinds are very tender, and soon killed by frosts, also prevented from making good progress by very cold winds early in the season but the runner bean is somewhat hardier than the dwarf one. Too many plants should not be grown in a small space or few bean pods will be produced.

THE SOIL

must be deeply dug and well manured, in fact, trenched about two feet deep, so that the roots of the plants can freely permeate it. If the soil be loosened and manured on the surface only, the roots of the plants will not support the crop through a short spell of very hot, dry weather. As the work of digging or

Speaking of the future, Mr Brunton said that one of the chief aims in the past had been to obtain large-sized blooms. That would always be an object for consideration, but hybridists would have to restore the Clove-like fragrance which had been sacrificed in the quest for size, form, and colour. —"Gardener's Chronicle."

HYBRID POTATOES.

The Rev. J. Aekman Paton gives in the current number of the "Journal" of the Royal Horticultural Society an account of his recent experiments in crossing species of Solanum. As the author points out, the ordinary commercial varieties of the potato are by no means convenient subjects for the experimental investigation of unit, hereditary characters, for they themselves are hybrids and require to be self-fertilised, and their descendants classified before they could be made to serve this purpose. Of the species-crosses made by the Rev. J. Paton, that between the white-flowering Solanum Commersonii and S. tuberosum (wild Mexican form) yielded 12 berries, containing in all 33 seeds. From this seed nine plants were raised. These F1 plants have yielded numerous seed-ber-



SINGLE PETUNIA, CHOICE FRINGED.

Mrs Joynson Hicks (single).—A bronze-yellow flower with a crimson disc.

Glow (pompon).—An elegant flower of a rosy-buff shade flushed with mauve. These three were shown by Messrs. J. Cical and Sons.

Hybrid Fringed Petunia.

The petunia is one of our best and most showy bedding plants, they stand the hot, dry season exceedingly well, and continue flowering right on till June. The ordinary petunia grandiflora makes a brilliant display, but the flowers are

Sweet Pea and Carnation Carnival

December 1st, 2nd, and 3rd 1910.

A SPECIAL Feature in connection with the Auckland Horticultural Show, to be held in the Metropolitan Grounds on the above date, will be

A Grand Procession

of vehicles, decorated mainly with Sweet Peas.

The grounds will be brilliantly illuminated at night.

Military Band, Maypole Dance,

and other attractions.

The Greatest Exhibition of Sweet Peas and Carnations ever seen in the Dominion.

W. W. BRUCE, Secretary.