



All communications for "Veronica" should be addressed to "Graphic" Office, Auckland. Secretaries of Horticultural Societies are invited to send us short reports of their proceedings, and also any items of interest to Horticulturists. Photographs of Flowers, Fruits or New Vegetables, or Garden Scenes, will be welcomed.

TO HORTICULTURAL SECRETARIES.

IMPORTANT.

Once more we would urge upon secretaries of all Horticultural Societies the importance of sending us the dates of their shows. Neglect to do so only means loss to their Society in the end.

All schedules forwarded to the Garden Editor of "The Weekly Graphic" will be acknowledged, and a sketch of same published in these columns.

Coronation Carnation.

QUEEN MARY SELECTS THE FLOWER FOR HER BOUQUET.

CHOICE THAT WILL BE POPULAR.

The Queen has intimated to the Gardeners' Company her wish that the Coronation bouquet which the company is to present to Her Majesty should be composed of pink carnations.

The flowers from which it is understood Her Majesty's choice will be made are the varieties known as Enchantress, a pale pink; Mrs. Lawson, a cerise; and Windsor, a full pink.

The announcement has given great satisfaction to horticulturists, as it is believed that from every point of view the Royal choice is a happy one.

"The present year has seen the production of the first true rose-pink carnation," said Mr. Barnett, a famous-Guernsey grower. "For this, in any case, great popularity had been foretold. The carnation is a flower, too, that has admirable decorative qualities, and it has increased in public favour very rapidly during the past few years."

Mr. R. F. Felton, the King's florist, said that next to the rose, which was really England's flower, there could be no better choice than carnations.

"The perfection to which perpetual-flowering carnations have now attained," he said, "makes them perhaps more sought after for purely decorative purposes than almost any other flower."

"You can decorate with carnations in a way that cannot be successfully undertaken without them. In the first place, they have magnificent lasting qualities when cut. The petals do not fall, no matter what the atmosphere of the room may be."

"However hot the Coronation Day is, and we all hope it will be brilliant, the carnation will stand the oppressiveness of the heat better, perhaps, than any other flower."

THE CARNATION—ITS HISTORY.

The carnation has been grown in England for hundreds of years. Its traditions go back as far as the thirteenth



PERPETUAL-FLOWERING CARNATION EMPIRE DAY.

Colour, bright pink. A.M. R.H.S., March 28. Raised by Mr. Smith, Epsford Highway, and exhibited by Messrs. R. F. Felton and Son, Hanover Square, W.

century, when it was introduced from pink.

It became a favourite in the cloistered gardens of the monasteries in the Middle Ages, but during the troublous times of the Commonwealth it was almost lost to the country, and it was only the perseverance and industry of the Dutch, who had meanwhile taken up the improvement of the flower, which saved it from practical extinction.

They produced more than a hundred new varieties, most of which were introduced by them into England. John Rea, in his "Flora," published in 1865, enumerates no fewer than 360 good varieties. Since that date the carnation has been improved by florists out of all knowledge, and its varieties have been multiplied a thousandfold.

The decision of the Queen to carry a bouquet of carnations at her Coronation will, not unnaturally, increase the desire of her subjects to grow their own carnations—if possible in their own gardens. But it is necessary to offer a word of warning.

The varieties submitted to the Queen—Enchantress, Mrs. Lawson, and Windsor—are all winter-flowering or American tree carnations, and these have been chosen for the very obvious reason that the ordinary outdoor border carnation does not bloom until the middle of July, and cannot easily be forced into bloom at an earlier date, as is the case with the perpetual-flowering variety.

ITS MERITS.

The perpetual-flowering variety is an American importation. It came to England as long ago as 1856, but it was not until the closing years of the nineteenth

century that it became really popular in the country. Its greatest merits were that it could be had in bloom continually between the months of October and March, and by delaying its propagation and growing it carefully under glass, could be flowered at almost any period of the year. Other advantages which it gained over the border carnation were the charming delicacy and colouring of its blossoms, and the length of the flower-stalks, which enabled it to be used with the finest effect for decorative purposes.

SOOT FOR STRAWBERRIES.

There can be no question as to the substantial value of soot for practically any crop that is grown in our gardens, and it should certainly be used in the strawberry plantations with considerable freedom, because it is bound to do good. Provided that it is kept from the leaves, it may be used moderately fresh; but it is always preferable to have that which has been heaped for a few months. Before the application is made, the surface of the bed should be loosened with the Dutch hoe or pricked over lightly with a fork, and as this work proceeds, every weed that can be seen must be destroyed. The rains will wash the valuable properties of the soot into the ground and the plants will derive benefit from them, while before that has occurred the soot will have accounted for a few slugs.



CYPRIPEDIUM KING GEORGE V.

A handsome variety with large, finely-formed flowers, attractively coloured rose, green, brown, and white. F.C.C., R.H.S., October 11. Mr. E. V. Low, Haywards Heath.