

the committee in November. This would have made a beginning. He could, no doubt, have been told he did it all wrong, but I don't think he would have minded, and next year we should have had trials on which certificates would have been granted. Again, no attempt was made at Palmerston to give visitors any sort of welcome. I was very anxious to see some gardeners. No member of committee even thought of intimating to local enthusiasts to throw their gardens open to members. I ventured to take the great liberty of requesting a view of the president's peas, and found that had he known there was any desire on the part of members to see his plants, he would have welcomed everyone.

This sounds an ungracious letter, but I think you will agree that it had to be written by some one, and I shall be only too pleased if anyone will reply, and reprove me soundly, and convince me that the committee have not neglected their work.—I am, etc.

W. E. HOWLETT.

[Our correspondent has done well in calling attention to what this young society left undone at their first meeting in Palmerston, last December, and also what the Society should set itself to do in the years to come. We indicated some of the points our correspondent mentions, in our notes of the exhibition, but they require reiterating. It is quite true that outsiders have got nothing in return for their subscriptions, and something in the way of an "Annual" or report will have to be taken in hand, if those outside the Palmerston radius are to be catered for. Our correspondent, however, is in error in stating "the committee had ample funds and most generous support" at the time of the annual meeting. Owing to the very meagre support of the Palmerston public, and the limited cash received, it was feared that the show would not pay its way, hence the desire of a number of members to transfer the next meeting to Wellington, where a much larger "gate" was assured. This proposal was defeated, and Palmerston again fixed as the locale of the ensuing exhibition, when it is to be hoped the society may receive much more generous support. But the question of an assured source or sources of income for the society remains to be determined. We are at a loss to know in what way the society can promote the export of seed. This it appears to us it outside the functions of such a society, but we would be pleased to have our readers' opinions on



ROSE, MRS. C. ALLEN.

EXHIBITED BY MESSRS. DICKSON, BELFAST, AT THE OLYMPIA SHOW.

the matter. We agree with our correspondent on the majority of points he indicates, which should engage the attention of the society, and, no doubt, at the ensuing show and meetings these will receive consideration. The matter of conducting trials, is, in our opinion, one of the most important in which the society can move, but there need be no "dirty, thankless work" in this connection; anyone who undertakes this kind of labour, even for his own educa-

tion alone, will derive an amount of knowledge and pleasure which will more than compensate for all the trouble. But a trial ground to be of service to all growers must be conducted on definite lines, and we hope to see a start made at the next meeting in December. The suggestion our correspondent throws out, viz. that local growers should allow members the privilege of inspecting their gardens during the meeting is an excellent one, and we trust only requires

to be mentioned for the hint to be acted upon.

What we have suggested before, now appears more necessary to emphasise, viz. that a two days' programme should be mapped out, and that there should be much more time devoted to discussion, and visits to growers. The meeting last year was convened too late, and there was not time to consider the many pressing questions which should have engaged attention. It is to be hoped the executive will, this year, draw up a programme, possibly with a time limit, which will embrace our respondent's suggestions, and others of interest. We shall welcome any suggestions in this direction from our readers. [Veronica.]

### Festival of Empire Rose Show.

A very extensive rose show, organised by Mr. Geoffrey Henlow for the Festival of Empire, was held at the Crystal Palace on June 29, and, though there were few flowers of super-excellence, there was a very even range of quality all through, and everyone appeared to be satisfied, both with the classes, the flowers, and the general arrangements. No cash prizes were offered, and there were nearly silver cups enough for everyone, and gold and silver medals, galore, and, as a great number of these prizes were gifts, the show was of unusual interest.

#### NURSERYMEN.

The Canadian Pacific Railway Company's silver cup for forty-eight roses was won by Messrs. B. B. Cant and Sons, Colchester, with a fine set of blooms that contained Yvonne Vacherot, Lyon Rose, F. K. Drusecki, White Maman Cochet, Bessie Brown, Captain Hayward, J. B. Clarke, Harry Kirk, Adone, Jules Graycreans, Maman Cochet, and B. Cant, particularly good; Messrs. Alex. Dickson and Sons, Newtonards, Co. Down, second.

The best three dozen blooms, distinct, which won Lord Northote's silver cup, came from Mr. Hugh Dickson, Belfast, who had a beautiful set of clean, fair-sized flowers, with J. B. Clarke, Mrs. David McKee, Honore Vermet, Bessie Brown, Lieut. Chanson, and Princess Beatrice as specially good; there were five competitors, and Mr. George Prince, Longworth, came second.

For two dozen flowers, distinct, Mr. J. Mattock, New Headington, Oxford, led and he had Lyon Rose, H. Dickens, Charles Darwin, and Duke of Wellington in good form; Mr. Henry Drew, Long-



SWEET PEAS EXHIBITED BY MESSRS. J. R. KING AND CO. AT THE OLYMPIA SHOW