

lovers. We congratulate the author on the production of such a readable and useful work. Orders for Mr. Sydenham's book should be sent to Messrs. Champa-loup and Edmiston, stationers, Queen-street, Auckland, who will have a supply at the end of September. Price, one shilling.

enthusiasts will prefer me to say a word or two about what is coming in 1911-12 rather than to discuss the relative merits of the flowers in the competitive classes. But I must not omit to men-

tion that the new star which has arisen, and which threatens to eclipse even the brilliancy of Mr. Stevenson. In the Coronation Class, Mr. E. Cowdy, of Loughall, Ireland, put up

twelve bunches such as have never been seen at Westminster before, the more power to his elbow. This letter, I am afraid, will be little more than a catalogue of varieties, but I do not see how to avoid it. The centre of attraction for enthusiasts was, of course, the vases containing varieties which had gained awards. First-class certificates were given to Barbara Holmes (Holmes), a lovely salmon apricot, and to Messrs. Dobbie and Co.'s stock of Thomas Stevenson. If a humble mit like myself may venture an opinion, I consider it a very wise plan to give awards to particular stocks grown by individual seedsmen; it is a strong incentive to improvement and purity. There were five awards of merits given: To E. Seymour Davies (Davies), a pale rosy blue; to Mavis Queen (Dobbie), a pleasing shade of mauve; to Red Star, a new settler from Mr. Malcolm, of Duns; to May Campbell (Dobbie), standard cream with crimine marbling in the centre, wings slightly veined carmine on cream. Messrs. Dobbie give the parentage as The King, Janet Scott. From this cross the result is an interesting one. Last and almost, if not quite, the prettiest, is Mrs. B. Gilbert (Gilbert), which was first sent to the trials about four years ago as Grace Wilson. It is a lovely shade of heliotrope, flaking on a white ground, so placed that a broad margin of white surrounds each petal.

Of good things to come, but not yet, I may mention two, a clear cherry-coloured seedling raised by Mr. Holmes, and Tortoise-shell (Aldersey), the seed of which will not be sent out till 1912-13.

In these snapshot days when everyone likes to have his thinking done for him by someone else, perhaps a list of the twelve most attractive novelties in the show, may be acceptable. The following dozen took my fancy more than any others: Juliet (Deal), a soft Zarin pink on a cream ground, deepening towards the edge of the petals; Elfrida Pearson, really a last year's novelty, a lovely clear pink on a white ground, splendidly shown by Messrs. Dobbie; Melba (Dobbie), a soft rich apricot salmon, not so orange as Earl Spencer; Dora Usher, also a last year's variety, a deep cream pink; Messrs. Sutton and Sons say that their stock is true; Iris

**The National Sweet Pea Show at Westminster.**

NOVELTIES FOR 1911-1912 DESCRIBED.

(Specially Written for the "Weekly Graphic.")

The event of the year has come and gone. Last year we were bewailing a July that rivalled December for cold and senselessness and rain. This year we are grumbling at heat and drought, complaining of short stalks and scalded flowers. I left home at nine o'clock on a cloudless morning, and after a pleasant journey through cornfields just touched with the first golden tinge of harvest, and meadows burning brown with drought, I reached London, fragrant with the perfumes of taxi-cabs and motors. Then, having satisfied the needs of the inner man—who did not want much in that atmosphere—I took the underground to Victoria, and walked from there to the Horticultural Hall. If you ever get the chance, I advise you to go to the Sweet Pea Show there; no other flower that I know provides such a perfect mass of blended colours in tints that never clash. It is not a blaze of colour, the shades are too soft for that; there is nothing garish about it, but one delicious harmony of pink and cream and lavender, crimson, orange, and purest white. The scent, too—how different from the petrol-laden air outside!—though with the thermometer over 80deg. in the shade, as it was on Tuesday, it was almost too fragrant.

On my own behalf, I went to see what novelties there were rather than to see whether Messrs. Stevenson and Jones had surpassed themselves with the magnificent flowers with which they carry off prize after prize, so that most of my time was occupied with the trade exhibits, and I think that New Zealand



D.T. ROSE, MRS. R. DRAPER.

Flowers rich pink. Gold Medal, National Rose Society, July 7. Mr Hugh Dickson



ROSE, FRANCES CHARTERIS SETON, EXHIBITED BY MESSRS. WM. PAUL AND CO., AT THE OLYMPIA SHOW