

corations, etc., and Mr. A. E. Grindrod, of Auckland, for cut flowers and pot plants. The exhibition was formally opened by the Mayor, Mr. G. Dickinson, after which Mr. Grindrod addressed a few remarks to daffodil growers with regard to growing and showing this flower.

The popular spring flower is securing more devotees in the district, as evidenced by the number of new exhibitors, but unfortunately some of them neglected to study the classification of the flowers and the schedule, with the result that several exhibits were "out of court." Mr. W. F. Buckland, the leading local grower, being engaged in the Supreme Court at Hamilton on the opening day, was unable to stage an exhibit then, but put up a nice lot of blooms on the second day, Miss Wells also augmenting the show by a collection of pot plants. A collection of about 30 good cheap varieties of daffodils suitable for beginners was staged by Mr. Grindrod, and attracted considerable attention.

The table decorations and other decorative classes were very creditably filled, and the Cambridge ladies are to be congratulated on their very tasteful display. The prize list is as follows:—

Narcissi.—Long trumpet, excluding doubles—Six varieties: Mrs. Sharp 1, Six varieties (amateurs): Mrs. M. McDermott 1. Three varieties: Mrs. (Dr.) Roberts 1, Miss Perkins 2. Twelve varieties: Mrs. McDermott 2. Large or small cups (excluding doubles and polyanthus)—Three varieties: A. J. Shepherd 1, Mrs. Sharp 2. Six varieties (amateurs): Mrs. McDermott 1. Three varieties: A. J. Shepherd 1, Mrs. (Dr.) Roberts 2. Doubles—Three varieties: Mrs. (Dr.) Roberts 1. Polyanthus narcissi—Three varieties: Mrs. (Dr.) Roberts 1, Miss Russell 2. Champion bloom, "Victoria": Miss Perkins.

Young People's Classes (for juniors under 14 years, blooms to be grown by exhibitor).—Narcissi, 12 varieties: K. McDermott 1, T. Simpson 2. Narcissi, six varieties: Miss A. Hally 1, T. Simpson 2.

Children under 14.—Narcissi, 12 varieties: Seymour Sharp 1, Carl McDermott 2. Narcissi, six varieties: Miss N. Gane 1, Miss J. McCullagh 2, Seymour Sharp h.c. Six varieties anemones: Miss N. Gane 1, Miss J. Brooks 2. Six spikes fuchsias: Mrs. Roberts 1, C. Boyce 2. M. A. Christie h.c. Three varieties hyacinths: Miss A. Hally 1, Miss Langmuir 2. Six varieties pansies: Mrs. (Dr.) Roberts 1, Mrs. C. Nixon 2. Six varieties camellias: Mrs. J. Russell 1, Sanatorium 2. Miss Wells h.c. Twelve varieties camellias: Miss Russell 1, Mrs. Sharp 2. Three varieties rhododendrons: Miss Russell 1, Mrs. Sharp 2.

Table Decorations, etc.—Epergne: Mrs. H. Nixon 1. Basket of spring flowers: Mrs. H. L. Nixon 1. Hand bouquet of violets: Mrs. (Dr.) Roberts 1, Miss Gow 2, Mrs. H. L. Nixon h.c. Table decorations: Mrs. W. Hunter 1, Miss Gow 2, Miss J. Russell h.c. Table decorations (juniors under 14): Miss M. Onions 1, Miss L. Perkins 2, Miss Hopkirk h.c. Three buttonholes: Mrs. H. L. Nixon 1, Miss Veale 2, Mrs. Veale h.c. Three ladies' sprays: Mrs. H. L. Nixon 1, Miss Gow and Mrs. W. Hunter (equal) 2.

Pot Plants.—Primula in bloom: Miss Wells 1. Cyclamen in bloom: Sanatorium 1. Chionodoxa in bloom: Miss J. Brooks 1. Foliage plant: Mrs. McCullagh 1, Sanatorium 2, T. Harty h.c. Flowering plant: Miss Wells 1, C. Boyce 2. Maidenhair fern: T. Simpson 1. Fern, other than maidenhair: Miss J. Brooks 1, Sanatorium 2.

SWEET PEA LETTER FROM ENGLAND.

(To the Editor.)

Sir, Doubtless many of your readers would be delighted to learn that Mr. F. H. Dinnall had been prevailed upon to contribute some of his sparkling notes on sweet peas for the benefit of N.Z. growers.

Certainly his first effort at once awakens keen interest when he so generously offers us his apples of discord, and fairly hurds them at us over 13,000 miles of space. Surely that alone should be sufficient for the National Sweet Pea Society of New Zealand to at once look into the question for single and double standards, and to come to a decision before the next show is held.

In New Zealand we are not interested from a seller's point of view at all. With us it is clearly a question of what is the best type of bloom. We will then grow

the best, whether locally produced or otherwise.

Personally, the writer has always held that "double standards should not be allowed to compete with single standards in the same vase or class. If they are so allowed, then where is a judge to draw the line as to how much frill is allowable, and also as to what constitutes an ideal double standard bloom? In other words, are such blooms to be only slightly double, or are they to be heavily frilled. Our good friends of the National Society at Home have left this doubtful point severely alone.

Equally have they left alone the question as to whether a small pea of new colour is to score as heavily as a full-sized one, say of earlier origin. For instance their standard gives no clue as to whether a pea like Stirling Stent shall score equally with one like Mrs. Hardcastle Sykes, and as there is frequently great diversity of type in an exhibit, surely it were better that these points should be finalised, so that exhibitors may determine which varieties are likely to score best for them in actual competition, instead of leaving the matter one of doubt and guess work as at present.

The views of our strongest exhibitors on the points raised would be very interesting, and their expression should help the N.S.P.S. of New Zealand to arrive at a decision of very great value to exhibitors as a whole, and who knows, may lead the Home Society to get ahead of their present unfortunate position.—I am, etc., H. A. FOX.

[The point raised by Mr. Fox is a most important one to exhibitors. Personally we are in entire agreement with the writer's opinion that double standards should not be shown in a vase of singles, and we would go further, and, notwithstanding the opinion of a majority of the members of the English National Society, that double standards should not be allowed at all. If we are to recognise these, then a separate and distinct class should be made; but we very much doubt the wisdom of recognising double standards. They are, really, "sports," and efforts have been made for many years to fix them. Success has only been partial, some varieties giving a greater percentage of doubles than others, but none come true from seed.

Whether a small flower of a new colour should score as heavily as a full-sized standard sort is a difficult subject, and would be ruled by the opinions of judges. The new colour might be deficient in size, yet excellent in form and substance, and its value would be appraised by what was pitted against it, a matter to be determined by points. We shall welcome the views of growers on these subjects.—Veronica.]

SWEET PEA NOTES.

Apart from the annual exhibition of the N.S.P.S. the most important event in the sweet pea world is the members' outing to the trials which are conducted by the National Society. 'Till last year these trials were conducted at Reading, but with the departure from Reading College of Mr Charles Foster, the sweet pea trials were removed to Sutton Green, where they were under the care of Mr Foster. As is well known, Mr Foster, after a short period at the "Times" Experimental Station, contracted a chill which terminated fatally, and the National Sweet Pea Society not only had to face this disaster, but also had to deal with the numerous samples of sweet pea seed which had been sent for trial. Fortunately, Lord Northcliffe was only too willing to allow the trials to continue at his experimental grounds, and as the late Mr Foster's son, Mr Harry Foster, had previously assisted his father, the N.S.P.S. Committee felt that the trials could be safely conducted under his supervision, and preparations were made for the approaching season as if nothing had happened.

The fact that Lady Northcliffe was elected president for the year 1911 tended to increase the interest of Lord and Lady Northcliffe, and through their kindness the members were once again enabled to view the trials, and partake of the hospitality that was so freely offered them. Accordingly well over one hundred members journeyed to Woking on July 13, where the party was met by brakes which conveyed them to the trial grounds, some five miles distant.

It grieves me to state that the trials of 1911 were the worst that I have ever visited, but this fact was in no way due

to anyone in authority. The terrible heat wave and the prolonged drought had sorely tried the plants, so that at the time of our visit there was not a single sample that was in true form. Had it been possible to have visited them a week earlier, we might have seen something to revel in, but, as it happened, we saw small, short-stemmed flowers, lacking in colour and substance, in many cases quite unrecognisable. Many senders of the seed found great difficulty in picking out their own offspring.

The plants themselves were, in most instances, remarkably good for the season, careful treatment having induced the plants to run well up the sticks, but nothing in the way of attention could prevent the burning sunshine from sapping the vitality from the plants, with the results already stated. In a few instances the dreaded streak disease had left its mark, whilst the various bicolor and fancy varieties had run so badly that it was impossible to find a flower true to character. Picotee kinds, like Elsie Herbert and Mrs C. Breamore, were either mottled or self-coloured, whilst bicolors, like Arthur Unwin, etc., were any colour but the right one, although when first in bloom the flowers were quite normal. From a novelty point of view it was quite impossible to pick out anything of likely merit, even the varieties that secured awards at the hands of the Floral Committee appearing very mediocre, whilst others that had been exhibited in fine form were beyond recognition, either because they were sun-scalded, or because they were sadly mixed. It would appear that not all raisers have made a point of fixing their novelties before sending them for trial, and not a few that have been shown as coming novelties for 1912 were deplorably mixed.

Most of the seedlings under trial were meant to be Spencer or waved kinds, but one might have gathered quantities of plain flowers. Some lots labelled as Improved Stocks of standard varieties were worse than the originals. A very large number of the trial lots came under the heading of lavender and mauve, and we may therefore expect an epidemic of these shades in the future. Some of them will probably prove distinct and valuable, for not a few raisers appear to have worked on to the pinkish-lilac tint. These are not likely to be of any value for garden decorations in very hot weather, as the metallic tinge fades deplorably.

The orange shades again were largely

represented, and unless something prevents it we may expect to see not a few varieties possessing the shade seen in Earl Spencer, whilst the orange-scarlet shade as seen in Edna Unwin, Dazzler, etc., is also likely to increase in quantity under various names. Just whether any of them possess superiority remains to be seen. Suffice to say that one exhibitor at the National Show had a vase of Edna Unwin which for vivid colour was not surpassed by anything in its class.

Incidentally it was remarked how wonderfully bright all the orange varieties were at the show, whilst at the trials not even the muslin shades prevented loss of colour. It may be mentioned, that among these numerous orange-tinted sorts there are some that merely bleach in the sun, whilst others go purple. The latter to my mind are things to avoid.

Scarlet and crimson shades were strongly represented at the trials, and although Red Star has received an award, we may anticipate something better. Vermillion Brilliant appeared to be very similar, and I may mention that this variety received the first award as a novelty at the American Sweet Pea Show which was held on June 29 last. Apart from this there was at the trials an unnamed scarlet that possessed greater vigour and bigger and brighter flowers than Red Star, the shade approaching the true scarlet instead of crimson-scarlet, as is seen in the latter.

In the way of crimsons there was nothing to surpass Maud Holmes. The sample of The King stood as a warning against its purchase, for the flowers were burnt black.

Several senders appear to have got hold of a similar break as I have been nursing myself, viz., a Prince Edward of York Spencer, among them being Rosabelle and Ennie Tatham.

In maroons we need not expect anything better than Nubian at present, although King Manoel is a darker flower.

In the way of pink shades there is not likely to be any great advance just yet. The delicate salmon tints, like Flossy Jeffery and Iris, are practically fixed, but they burn badly. In deep pink nothing of merit was apparent, whilst in the cream-pink section nothing fresh was observable.

The blue shades show no advance, al-

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