

LIFE IN THE GARDEN

Official Organ of the New Zealand Sweet Pea Society and Auckland Horticultural Society.

By Veronica.

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.

COMING SHOWS.

- Hamilton Horticultural Society.**—Summer Show, Nov. Autumn Show, April, 1912. E. B. Davy, Hon. Sec.
- Canterbury Horticultural Society.**—Rose Show, December. Carnation and Sweet Pea Show, January, 1912. Miss E. Sneyd Smith, Secretary.
- Auckland Horticultural Society.**—Rose Show, Choral Hall, November 9 and 10. Sweet Pea and Carnation Show, December 1 and 2. W. Wallace Bruce, Financial Secretary; W. Satchell, Managing Secretary.
- Paeroa Rose Show.** Criterion Theatre, Paeroa.—November 11, 1911. D. T. Inglis, Hon. Sec.
- Wellington Rose and Carnation Club.**—Rose Show, Town Hall, Nov. 15, 1911. Carnation and Sweet Pea Show, Town Hall, Dec. 13, 1911. F. L. Ashbolt, Sec., 31 Hunter-street, Wellington.
- Hobson Horticultural and Industrial Association.**—Annual Show, Saturday, November 18th, at Aratapu. A. Froom, Box 8, Te Kopuru, Secretary.
- Masterton Horticultural and Industrial Society.**—Rose and Sweet Pea Show, November. H. M. Coddington, Secretary, Box 23, Masterton.
- Timaru Horticultural Society.**—Autumn Show, Olympia Hall, February 15 and 16, 1912. Jas. K. Macdonald, Hon. Sec.

Answers to Correspondents.

Mr T. K. Thompson, New Plymouth.—The second lot of specimens reached me in very good condition, and I think I can safely state that it is a stalk of the new pink freesia. So far as I know it has only been in New Zealand for two or three seasons and is comparatively rare. I have the plant in bloom in my garden now and it is a decided novelty, and when more plentiful will be of much value for cut flowers.—VERONICA.

HORTICULTURAL NOTES.

Fruit trees, especially plums, peaches, pears and nectarines have made a grand show of blossom this season; and with a favourable season we should have a good crop.

Don't neglect to spray frequently with Swift's arsenate of lead if you wish to get clean fruit.

If any young trees have been recently planted, see that they are securely staked to prevent swaying about by the wind.

Stake culinary peas, and make another sowing. Yorkshire Heroes are a heavy cropper, and though the pods are not long, they shell out exceedingly well and are of good quality.

Provide stakes or supports of some kind for scarlet runner and pole beans and make another sowing.

Tomato plants will also require supports, and late plants should be planted out.

Sweet peas are now making rapid growth, and showing flower. Every at-



CARNATION, MRS. ROBERT BERKELEY.

Very large apple blossom pink, superb form. A new shade. Award of merit, R.H.S., 1910.

attention should be given to keep the ground free from weeds, and see that sufficient supports are provided.

Hollyhocks and Delphiniums should be staked. These most useful plants ought not to be neglected.

Carnations, especially when these are large plants, should be examined, and slugs and snails destroyed. Carnations require stakes, and where fine blooms are wanted, disbud.

Plant out dahlias and prepare ground for later plantings. Space for chrysanthemums should also be got ready.

Seed of anemone, and ranunculus intended to be harvested should be gathered as it ripens on the plants. If good germinating seed is to be secured it must be allowed to get ripe before gathering. Seed only from the very finest blooms should be taken. Dry thoroughly before storing away.

Up-to-Date Carnations.

One gets so used to the successes year by year of our old friend Mr. James Douglas, that it is not surprising to find him again such a heavy winner at this season's shows at Home.

We publish two illustrations of some of his most famous winners, and are pleased to learn that we may expect to see them in competition at the 1912 carnation shows in Auckland and Wellington.

Owing to the great heat experienced

throughout England this season very few awards have gone to new seedlings, owing to the blooms opening prematurely. All but one of the "Premiers" at this year's National show went to older varieties.

THE TWELVE BEST SWEET PEAS FOR EXHIBITION.

Now that the sweet peas have been exhibited freely in England, one would be very glad to have the opinion of other readers on the best twelve varieties for exhibition in 1912, because no doubt now is a much better time to choose and make notes than when the spring catalogues are issued. I enclose the names of those which, in my opinion, are the best:—Elfrida Pearson, Thomas Stevenson, Tennant Spencer, Elsie Herbert, Mrs. Routzhan, Clara Curtis, Maud Holmes, Etta Dyke, Mrs. C. W. Breadmore, Flora Norton Spencer, Tom Bolton and R. F. Felton.—F. Owen, Beechley, Wrexham.

A FINE PERENNIAL CANDY-TUFT.

(IBERIS PERFECTION.)

The perennial candytufts are among the most valued of our dwarf rock and border plants, and many are especially valued for their heads of snow white blooms, which are so ornamental in



CARNATION, MRS. HENWOOD.

White self. First class certificate, National Carnation Show, London, also award of merit, R.H.S., London, 1910.