

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.

Auckland Horticultural Society—Sweet Pea and Carnation Show, December 1 and 2. W. Wallace Bruce, Financial Secretary; W. Satchell, Managing Secretary.

National Sweet Pea Society of New Zealand—Second Exhibition at Palmerston North, December 5 and 6, 1911. E. A. Osmond, Hon. Secretary, P.O. Box 10, Stratford.

Wellington Rose and Carnation Club—Carnation and Sweet Pea Show, Town Hall, Dec. 13, 1911. F. L. Ashbolt, Sec., 31 Hunter-street, Wellington.

Hutt Valley Horticultural Society.—Sweet Pea and Carnation Show, December 20th. Thos. Barker, Hon. Secretary.

Canterbury Horticultural Society—Rose Show, December. Carnation and Sweet Pea Show, January, 1912. Miss E. Sneyd Smith, Secretary.

Timara Horticultural Society.—Autumn Show, Olympia Hall, February 15 and 16, 1912. Jas. K. Macdonald, Hon. Sec.

Hamilton Horticultural Society.—Autumn Show, April 1912. E. B. Davy, Hon. Sec.

GARDEN NOTES.

The fruit trees this season promise abundant crops. Plums, especially Japanese, are carrying enormous loads, and if fine fruit is desired, thinning must be undertaken. Peaches and nectarines promise well.

Silver blight is making its appearance again, and for this insidious disease no remedy is known. Many things have been tried, but so far without success, and all we can do is to root out and burn any affected tree. This is a drastic step, and one many will hesitate to adopt, as probably some favourite peach or nectarine is the victim. Well, then, if the trouble appears only in one branch or limb, cut that out and burn it, but very probably the disease will assert itself on another branch the following season, so that after all short, sharp work, even though it is a heart-break, is the best.

The recent stormy, wet weather has had a bad effect on Sweet peas, causing a lot of bud-dropping, which many growers have been alarmed at, but there need be no fear. With softer winds and bright sunshine we have no doubt the peas will bloom well.

Culinary peas are making good growth. These should be attended to, moulded up and staked when necessary, and another patch sown. You really cannot have too many green peas, for there is no finer vegetable.

Don't neglect to sow turnips for succession. These soon get "woolly" and useless, so frequent sowings are a necessity. Towards the end of this month and beginning of next sow some swedes for winter use.

Kumeras, or sweet potatoes, can be planted out on any spare ground. These are easily grown and not subject to blight. They prefer a sandy soil.

Carnations are rather later than last season in coming into bloom, and we hear the Wellington growers for this

reason won't be able to show at the Auckland carnival, a report we are sorry to hear, for Wellington generally sends something good in this line.

Aquilegias are now coming into flower. These single, long-spurred hybrids can now be had in a great variety of beautiful shades, and this flower is worthy of more attention than is bestowed on it at present.

Phlox Drummondii, Grandiflora, Celosias, Amaranthus, Cockscorn, Balsam, Coleus, and Salvias may be planted out. These are gorgeous flowering plants, and do well even in very dry seasons. In the Auckland province they are quite at home.

of the National should be a "gathering of the clans," when Sweet Pea men and women may see and hear all there is to be seen and heard about their favourite flower.

The Auckland Sweet Pea and Carnation carnival in the Metropolitan Grounds on December 1 and 2 promises to be even more successful than the last one. Some of the features are:—The "New Zealand Herald" prize of five guineas for a single bunch of Sweet Peas, the colour-blending prize for 20 sprays, May Queen competition, for girls between 14 and 18 years of age (prize, a gold watch), floral costume competition, garden life competition, decorated living poster, parasol competition, competition for boy scouts, any decoration—animal, vehicle, or other.

Year by year papers are read, practical illustrations by well-known growers are given, blooms are compared at special evenings during the flowering season, and the result very naturally is an all round improvement in the quality of the exhibits most favoured by the club, consisting of roses, carnations as well as sweet peas.

Unfortunately the weather this season had been most unkind, a series of gales culminating the day before the show in a hurricane of tremendous violence, but so well used to this kind of amusement on the part of the clerk of the weather are our growers, that shades and protections of all kinds are brought into play.

Naturally the entries suffered in numbers, but still competition was good,



SWEET PEA, THOMAS STEVENSON.

This is a fine orange-scarlet variety of great brilliance; raised by Mr. R. Holmes, of Norwich, and introduced by Robert Sydenham, Limited, of Birmingham.

The National Sweet Pea Society's second meeting at Palmerston North has been moved forward a day in consequence of the general election being fixed for the 7th, so that the show will now take place on December 5 and 6, when we hope the enthusiastic growers will leave the politicians to fight their fights themselves.

We trust the executive will have a full programme mapped out giving plenty of time for full and free discussion, visits to gardens in the district, etc. Palmerston North is well worth visiting, and the meeting

THE WELLINGTON ROSE SHOW.

A SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITION.

Like its predecessor, this popular fixture was again a centre of attraction for Wellingtonians, the Town Hall being none too large for the number of exhibits staged.

One looks for a gradual upward movement in culture from any specialist floral club, and certainly there is nothing to complain of in that respect concerning the Wellington Rose and Carnation Club.

while some glorious blooms were staged. These, however, were mostly hybrid teas, the intermittent cold snaps having retarded the H.P.'s to such an extent that few have so far come into bloom this season.

Mr. C. Trevethick was the most successful exhibitor, thus winning the Prime Minister's rose bowl from Mrs. J. G. Wilson, of Bulls, for a year. That lady had her revenge by again annexing the coveted "champion bloom" of the show, this time with an enormous bloom of Dean Hole. These doughty champions have each secured the rose bowl twice. If either is again successful it becomes the winner's property.