

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.

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.—Carnation and Sweet Pea Exhibition, January, 1912. Miss E. Sneyd Smith, Secretary.

Timaru 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.

At Lake Takapuna.

VISIT OF HORTICULTURAL ENTHUSIASTS TO "TE KITEROA."

IN response to an invitation from Mr. Brett, some seventy members of the Auckland Horticultural Society and their lady friends journeyed by boat and tram to his gardens at Takapuna. The weather conditions were perfect for the outing, the air still, the sun shining, with a few fleecy clouds to temper the heat of his rays. Mr. Brett met his guests at the gate, and probably because he recognised carnation enthusiasts in the foreground, and could sympathise with their impatience, led the way to the carnation beds. Here the best part of an hour was spent inspecting choice blooms of the large number of varieties which Mr. Brett has imported from America, England, and elsewhere. The season, of course, has not been a favourable one, cold rains and boisterous winds having almost brought growth to a standstill, but one can imagine the sight this garden will present in a week or two, when the thousands of buds now

beginning to show colour are out in full bloom. From the carnations a move was made into the lower garden, where the gay colours of innumerable rows of sweet peas called irresistibly to the visitors. To pick the sweet-pea is merely an invitation to it to flower again, and soon the ladies' hands were full of blossoms, delicate or gorgeous, according as their inclinations moved them. Experts in the cult were meanwhile discussing the merits of rival varieties. One heard much of Maori Belle and Mrs. Charles Foster, and it is still in doubt which is the belle. After all, the distinction should probably go to Mrs. Hugh Dickson, despite the fact that she is not of the Maori Belle colour, but a delicate pink, for someone found two sprays of six blossoms apiece, which among sweet peas is a mark of the very highest breeding and culture.

Despite the large demands made by carnations and sweet peas, time was found to admire beds of cream and white stocks, of centaureas (Sweet Sultan) in unusually wide range of colour, purples, blues, golden yellow, white and cream. An immense bed of delphinium, grown, as the guests were assured, from a single packet of seed, and mingling the most

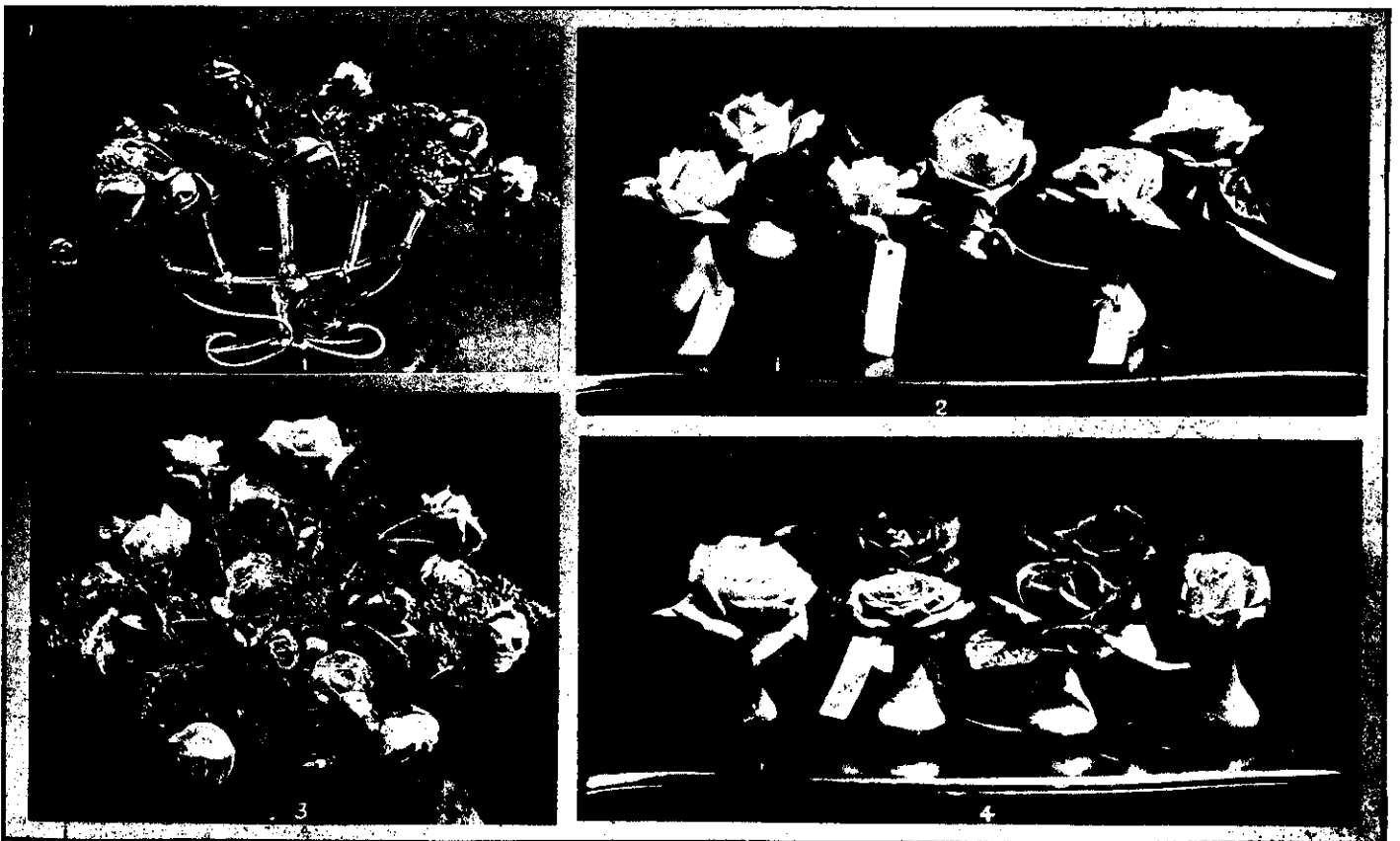
glorious blues, from forget-me-not to purple, attracted the admiration of everyone.

A visit to the Kiosk, where Mr. and Mrs. Brett entertained their guests with afternoon tea, brought a delightful afternoon to a close.

AMONG THE ROSES.

CREDITABLE DISPLAY AT LOWER HUTT.

The Lower Hutt Rose show this year was highly creditable, especially when it is remembered that the succession of high winds with which outdoor growers had to contend had a material effect upon the general quality of the blooms, lessening the exhibitors' range of choice and making perfection much harder to attain than usual. Notwithstanding this drawback, however, the show brought together a collection of flowers many of which were exquisite in form and colouring, while the great majority spoke eloquently of careful cultivation and the many favourable conditions that growers in the garden valley enjoy.



Barton, photo.

SUMMER ROSES FROM THE GARDEN VALLEY OF THE HUTT.

(1) Mrs. E. Hendry's first prize epergne of roses. (2) Six of Mr. C. Trevellick's first prize roses, by which he won the silver rose bowl. (3) Mrs. Eric Hildford's first prize bowl of roses (Decorative Class). (4) Mr. C. Trevellick's first prize exhibits in the open class.