

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.

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.

HORTICULTURAL NOTES.

Pentstemons are worthy of much more attention than they have received of recent years in this Dominion. Vast improvements have been made in the size and beauty of the bloom spikes, and really good sorts can be obtained by sowing seed which has been saved from a good collection.

Winter flowering—or, as we generally know them, spring flowering—sweet peas should not be neglected where early blooms are in demand. The Spencer form has been secured in this useful class. These are said to bloom much longer than the original, and to be more vigorous in growth.

Pansy seed should be sown as soon as possible. This favourite flower can be grown by anyone without much trouble. The seed may be sown in the open or in boxes or pans. Always buy the best seed procurable.

Stocks for early bloom should be attended to. A position should be chosen which is thoroughly drained. Avoid green or unfermented manure. A piece of new ground which has been well worked gives good results. The varieties of ten-week and Crompton stock are exceedingly numerous, and all of them beautiful.

Really good petunias are difficult to secure from seed, and when one does succeed in getting a few good plants they should be carefully marked and cuttings taken. These can be inserted in half sand under glass in autumn and wintered indoors, or plants can be protected through the winter and cuttings taken in the spring.

Carnation layering should be well in hand, so as to ensure strong, well-rooted layers.

Chrysanthemums and dahlias will need constant attention. Give plenty water and mulch. Attend to tying up to stakes to prevent the wind swaying them about.

The ground for daffodils should be got ready. Dig deep or trench, and leave rough for the sun to sweeten. A light dressing of basic slag should be dug in some time before the bulbs are planted.

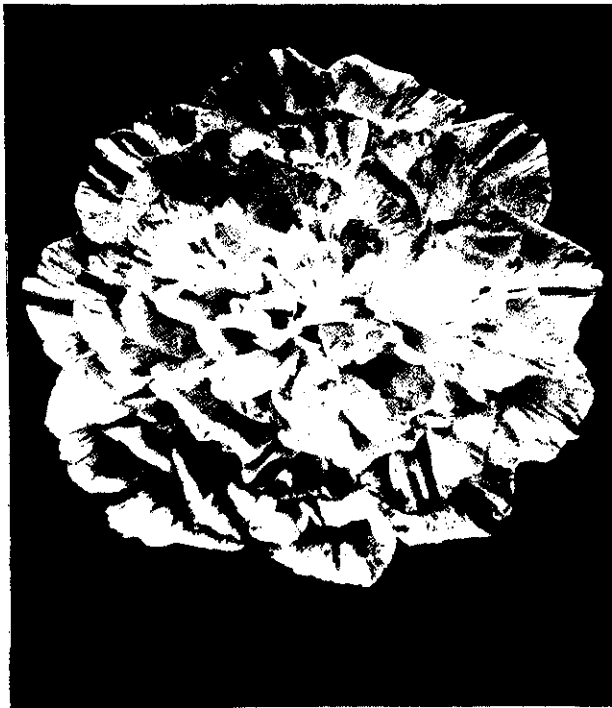
A small patch of mignonette seed may be sown for autumn flowering. This fine old favourite should be grown in abundance, and a pinch of seed sown at intervals will keep up the supply of flowers.

Two Good New Carnations.

Among florists' flowers the perpetual carnations now figure largely, and, as in the case of all popular subjects, the



CARNATION BARONESS DE BRIENEN, A BEAUTIFUL PINK INTRODUCED BY MESSRS STUART LOW AND CO., OF ENFIELD, ENGLAND.



CARNATION WIVELSFIELD WONDER, A NEW PERPETUAL VARIETY, WHITE WITH ROSE-PINK FLAKING, FROM THE GARDENS OF MESSRS ALLWOOD BROS., WIVELSFIELD, HAYWARD'S HEATH, ENGLAND.

number of new varieties that make a bid for favour is considerable. Two that have come under our notice of late we illustrate.

The variety *Baroness de Brienen* is one of Messrs. Stuart Low and Co.'s introduction, and is a lovely pink shade, the flowers are large, carried well on long stems, and have prettily fringed petals. The Enfield firm have exhibited this variety very freely during the present year, and, we understand, it bears the name of a Dutch lady who is a great horticulturist, and particularly fond of carnations.

Wivelsfield Wonder is being sent out by Messrs. Allwood Brothers, Wivelsfield, Hayward's Heath, and was well shown by them at the Carnation Show held at the Royal Botanic Gardens, London, recently. This is a very large flower, with excellent calyx and stem, and it has very broad petals. The white ground colour is flaked over with a soft shade of rose-pink. *Wivelsfield Wonder* is a dainty carnation, and its habit of growth and freedom of flowering leave nothing to be desired. This newcomer is a seedling from that fine old American variety, *Bradt*, which was one of the parents of *Euchantress*, as, indeed, it has been of many other modern varieties.

NEW BEGONIAS AND CHRYSANTHEMUMS.

At the Royal Horticultural Society's fortnightly meeting held on December 5th, there were a large number of groups of begonias. The most graceful type is the small flowered *Chloé de Lorraine*, of which a bank of pink and white forms was sent by Mr. Gurney Fowler (South Woodford). *Glory of Cinthath*, an improvement on the type in the size and brightness of the flowers, won an award for Mr. G. Lang (Hampton), and Mr. J. Bruckhaus (Twi Kenham) staged the best plants in the show, considered as individual specimens of this variety and Mrs. A. de Rothschild, Messrs. Chibins (Aldrichham) secured an award of merit with *Atrichum Pink*, a truly double bright pink variety with flowers nearly 3in. in diameter.

Chrysanthemums were well shown by Messrs. Wells (Mertonham), Mr. P. Ladd (Swanley), and others. The best of the day's novelties (excluding the American variety, *Patty*, which labbed to secure an award) was the pure white finely formed