

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 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.

HORTICULTURAL NOTES.

MR. C. TREVETHICK, of Lower Hutt, Wellington, the well-known sweet pea grower and rose specialist, sailed from Wellington in the s.s. Athenic bound for London.

Mr. Trevethick is the president of the New Zealand National Sweet Pea Society, and no doubt he will make a point of visiting the parent society's show and taking part in its outings, so we may expect him back check-full of wrinkles for the benefit of our own society.

We anticipate Mr. Trevethick will be back again in time for the next National meeting at Palmerston North.

Mr. H. A. Fox, of Wellington, who is so well and favourably known as an enthusiast in carnation culture, has sent to England some plants of Dominion-raised carnations, amongst others Sir Nigel, Mrs. H. Raffle, and Lady Beatrice. We shall await with interest the verdict of the "old hand" on Dominion creations, and congratulate Mr. Fox on his pluck and enterprise.

The same Mr. Fox has a way or a pique of his own for landing carnations from England very much alive, whilst so many of his contemporaries fail. We hear he has safely landed about 300 plants from the best English growers. Some eminent English growers consider it useless, owing to so frequent failures, to send plants to New Zealand. Mr. Fox may be able to give them the requisite tip.

A New Zealand sweet pea grower sent some seeds to Scotland for trial, and he has received a very gratifying report concerning them. The flowers were splendid, growth vigorous, and the grower delighted with the result.

Any of our readers who may send Dominion-grown seeds to friends at Home or in foreign lands should send us the results, whatever these may be.

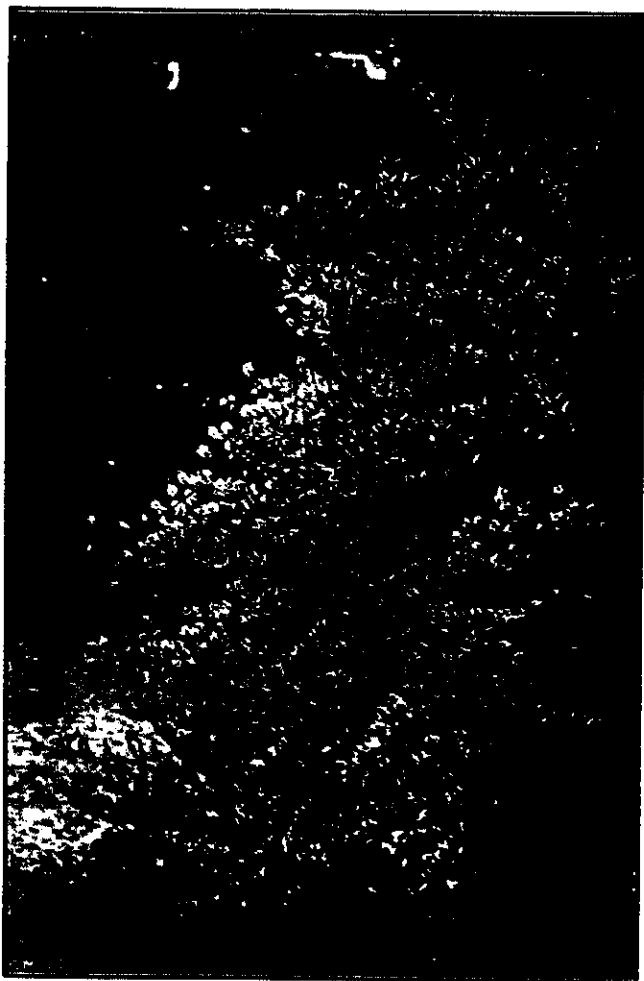
VERONICAS.

The cultivation of Veronicas in the Dominion is, generally speaking, very much neglected, and this may be accounted for, in part at least, owing to many varieties of these being Native plants,



CARNATION, JOHN BIDD.

A distinct and handsome fancy variety, raised by Mr. James Douglas, Great Bannockburn. The blooms are of large size, and are freely marked with rose-red on a yellow ground.



VERONICA, HULKEANA.

A graceful matre shrub with lavender-blue flowers.

and consequently considered very common by those who, especially in the early days, were accustomed to knock them down in clearings or by the edges of creeks, and who regarded them much in the same way as they did the titree, now so fast disappearing. Our early settlers, and we are sorry to add our later ones, have had little time or care for preserving the beautiful, and hence many a noble tree, and numerous useful flowering and ornamental shrubs, have been ruthlessly destroyed, and as a consequence New Zealand to-day is poorer by being denuded of those plants of the Native bush which can never be replaced, and which many mourn over. But it is of little use crying over spilt milk; let us rather seek to conserve the fragments, and we may begin by putting in a plea for our Native Veronicas, which are excellent subjects for any garden, and the variety and diversity of the family is such that any one with the smallest bit of ground may easily grow a few plants. We feel convinced that it is only because these plants are Natives that they are so much neglected.

In the Homeland they are highly prized plants. A few of the best varieties may be mentioned and foremost is Hulkeana, a most beautiful and graceful variety, growing from 3 to 6 feet in height, flowers—lavender-blue. This

Veronica is quite distinct from the other members of the family. The flowers are produced on long branching panicles, and it is a most profuse bloomer, so much so in fact that unless the flower spikes are removed either when in bloom or immediately after, the drain on the plant for seed production is so exhausting that plants frequently die off. Plants may be propagated from cuttings in summer.

Carnosula and C. Glauca have white flowers and glaucous leaves, and grow about 2 feet in height. They are very ornamental and easy to grow.

Dismocolla is another white flowering sort, which grows in a compact bush about 2 feet high; a splendid dwarf sort.

Heteroll and Tetragonica are most unique, having most peculiar cordlike foliage, and are objects of great interest in any garden.

Pinguicula grows about 3 to 4 feet in height, and has small leaves and white flowers. It is a most useful variety.

Greyii is another somewhat curious plant with greenish blue leaves and small flowers, and there are many others we might mention. Veronicas can be had suitable for hedges such as Arborea and Imperialis with its dense growth, and Amaranth, crimson dower spikes, blooming in early winter; the variegated Anderson's Variegated, highly ornamental, or