

manure. The seed-pans should be placed on a mild hotbed.

#### Transplanting the Seedlings.

This should be done while they are quite small in a richer compost in pans or boxes. The lower portion of the compost should have some well-rotted manure freely mixed with it, the top portion being free from manure. The seedlings will then commence to grow, and the roots, coming into contact with the richer soil, will strengthen rapidly, and a corresponding growth of stem and leaves will result. A warm frame or greenhouse is still the best place for the seedlings, but the next shift should be to a cool frame.

First place a layer of well-rotted manure two inches deep in the frame, then a rich compost seven inches deep on the manure, putting out the young plants nine inches apart, as their leaves will soon become very large. Give water with care, and after the hollyhocks have become established, ventilate freely; and, finally, as the warmer weather comes, remove the lights altogether.

#### The Final Planting.

The border, in which the hollyhocks are to be finally grown, should be very deeply dug and well enriched with manure, the latter being thoroughly mixed with the soil. Put out the young plants very carefully; you should lift them from the frame bed by inserting a spade or garden fork under them, and so retain all the soil possible to each plant.

#### SWEET PEAS IN BORDERS.

Those who cultivate sweet peas only as an exhibition flower will look askance at a suggestion that it be included in the herbaceous border, for they restrict the plants to two or three stems each, and grow them 1 foot apart on tall supports. In such guise sweet peas have no garden beauty, and it is only when the large flowers on long stems which they yield are cut and put together in vases that there is anything about them to admire. The sweet pea is, however, a beautiful border plant when given a more natural system of culture. The essence of the show system is restriction—restriction of shoots and restriction of flowers. Now, with most plants thin culture to a moderate degree is good.

Crowding together is bad, because it prevents each member of the group from producing side shoots, and causes the main stem to become elongated and weak. But the sweet pea is not a bushy plant by nature, and does not require wide spacing to grow healthfully and flower abundantly.

A group of sweet peas in the border is not effective when gappy and sparsely flowered. The plants must be in a close mass, and full of bloom, to show to advantage. The farther the flower gardener keeps away from the show grower's methods of culture the more likely he is to get beautiful clumps of sweet peas in his borders. Soil cultivated 4 or 5 feet deep, and packed with masses of manure, lateral shoots picked out, flowers rigorously thinned—all these things should be eschewed. The seeds may be sown where the plants are to bloom, in well-tilled and moderately manured soil. There is no objection to pot-raising, however, provided the tap root of the plant sustains no check, and it may happen that in some cases the grower desires to put certain varieties in a given order, so as to get particular blends of colour; a supply of named plants in pots will then be helpful. The plants should be put 4 or 5 inches apart, and not subjected to much, if any, pinning.

Whether the seeds are sown outside, or pot-plants are used, rings may be formed, say 1 yard across, but the rings may be larger or smaller, according to circumstances. When the seeds or pot-raised seedlings are set in a ring it is very convenient to put in the sticks. The circle should be formed in a hollow, so that whatever water or liquid manure is used gets direct to the roots. In spite of the fact that sticks are a little ineffectual while the plants are young, they should be put in early, as they certainly help the sweet peas to make progress. There is such a great range of colours that a variety of charming blends can be produced. There are white, ivory, cream, blush, pale pink, salmon, orange, carmine, scarlet, rose, crimson, several shades of blue, mauve, and a large number of two-coloured flowers, so that most of the ingredients for beautiful blends are there. Vigorous, free-blooming varieties, of clear, decided colours, are the most useful to the flower-gardener who can afford to pass over the flakes and fancy flowers.

In considering sweet peas in relation

to other plants in the border, it will probably be found best to keep the clumps to one colour, whether lavender, pink, white, crimson, or orange.

It is not of much use to put sweet peas into borders where they will grow into shrubs or large clumps of herbaceous plants when they develop, for the stems will be thin and the flowers scanty. They must stand quite clear of all their neighbours when in full growth, so that water and fresh air can reach them without check. If these conditions cannot be provided they had better be kept out of the borders altogether, for they will only cause disappointment.—Walter P. Wright, in "The Gardener."

#### BEAUTIFUL ROSES AT THE INTERNATIONAL.

Among the many wonders at this great show roses occupied a very prominent position. It is quite fitting that it should be so, for the rose is truly the

don, but of far superior form and with erect growths.

Mrs. George Beckwith will be a glorious rose, a fuller and better shaped Rayon d'Or. Another named Constantine is also of this type. President Vignot is an exquisite colour, almost scarlet, and will make a grand bedder. Every rose lover should grow Souvenir de Gustave Frut. Although nearly white as shown, it comes a lovely clear yellow outdoors, and is of a delightful form. Cissie Easlea is one of the Permetiana class, and M. Pernet Ducher believes it will surpass Mme. Ravary. It is not yet in commerce, but if it beats Mme. Ravary it will be a grand rose. Mme. Charles Lutand, the rose said to surpass Marquise de Sinety, may do so in habit, but as shown it is of a much paler colour.

Readers must all buy George Dickson. It is the triumph of Newtownards, and that is saying something!

Milady and A. H. Gray are proving themselves grand additions to the yellows, and are a welcome change to the



SEEDLING BEGONIAS—FLOWERS SCARLET.

A very fine flowering variety, with extra large leaves, some of which are 16 in. in length. It was raised from seed by Mr R. A. Cook, of Dargaville, Auckland.

people's flower, and can be grown by everyone. Although on this occasion the roses were necessarily grown under glass, the same varieties would be equally suitable for outdoor culture. Ramblers and the tiny little Polyantha, Fairy or Pet roses were the most extensively exhibited, and formed, as it were, the groundwork of most of the groups.

#### Roses from Waltham and Chesham.

The two Pauls, from Chesham and Waltham Cross, respectively, had on view many of the best sorts in cultivation. One especially named Frida, will prove to be a real acquisition. It is like a giant Bessie Brown, only of a lovely shade of pink. Portia is a good big flower of a whitish colour, with yellowish centre. It is of somewhat dwarf growth, but still a fine exhibition rose. Margaret is also a really good thing—certainly one of the best pink roses with a lovely high centred form that we have. Edward Mawley was shown in immense size, and its splendid crimson colour and huge petals will make it a welcome addition to our gardens.

Lady Pirie is also a good season rose, one of marvellous colouring, but very transient. Mr. Hugh Dickson was showing some fine examples of his Mrs. Charles Allen, but they were not of the true colour; this should be more of the shade of Mme. Hector Leulliot, with pink tinting. Mrs. Charles Allen is a grand garden rose, as also is Countess of Shaftesbury, a lovely colour, something like a glorified Dr. Campbell Hall.

#### M. Pernet Ducher's Exhibit.

For the rosarian, perhaps the most sensational group in the exhibition was that from M. Pernet Ducher of Lyons. He secured the "Daily Mail" special prize with Mme. Edmond Herriot, a rose of wonderful colouring. It is a rather thin flower, but the colour is that reddish copper which is none too frequent. It will be introduced next autumn. In this group were also such fine things as Sunburst, a beautiful rich golden colour, but, unfortunately, the first bloom came of a pale colour, nearly white. The flowers are of grand shape, with long stems, while the colour from the young wood is as rich as Lady Hilling-

everlasting pinks, of which there are far too many. Mrs. E. Allard is an exception. It is like a huge Mme. A. Chateau and a perfect La France all in one. Of course, it had been fed up as all Messrs. Mount's roses are, but then it shows what cultivation can do.

#### Other Good Sorts.

Sallie is pretty, and took a first prize. Lady Alice Stanley was well to the front, and so also was George C. Waul. These are two really good things, Mme. Second Weber and My Maryland, they are much alike. Mrs. Foley Hobbs is not only of perfect form but so delightfully fragrant that all will want to plant it. Other good things are Mrs. C. Hunter, Ophelia, Mrs. Forde, Duchess of Abercorn, Lady Downe, Mrs. H. Stevens, George Arends, a fragrant pink Druschki, Mrs. Campbell Hall, Lady Dixon, Mrs. Bryce Allen, Mrs. G. Shawyer, and Mrs. C. Reed.

#### A Yellow Druschki.

Here Peter Lambert, the raiser of Druschki, announced at the show that he had a yellow Druschki, which, although not yet in commerce, he thought would make a big name.

#### GROWING CARNATIONS UNDER GLASS.

The time is not far distant when carnations will be grown under glass in this Dominion for the supply of cut blooms during the winter months. In the North Island we get frosts in May to perish most of our outside blooms—some few favoured localities excepted. The latter part of May and the whole of June are probably the times when our supply is at the minimum, and should our population continue to grow as it has done during the past decade, growers of flowers will have to cast about for some means of supplying the demand, and glass houses will become an indispensable adjunct to market growers.

It is, of course, well known that many kinds of plants lend themselves exceedingly well to forcing. Roses, lilacs, dentzias, and many others, can all be utilised to advantage. We consider car-



A HAND BOUQUET OF ENGLISH WILD FLOWERS.

Classes of this kind are arranged at many of the country flower shows.