

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 welcome.

NOTICE TO SECRETARIES.

We would urge upon secretaries of all Horticultural Societies the importance of sending us the dates of their shows. Neglect to do so means loss to their Society in the end.

All schedules forwarded to the Garden Editor of "The Weekly Graphic" will be acknowledged, and a sketch of same published in these columns.

COMING SHOWS.

WELLINGTON ROSE AND CARNATION CLUB.—Rose Show, November 12, Town Hall, Wellington; Carnation and Sweet Pea Show, December 11, Town Hall.—H. A. Fox and J. E. S. Lord, joint hon. secretaries.

HOROWHENUA HORTICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY.—Spring Show, Otaki Town Hall, November 20; Autumn Show, March 12 and 13, 1913.—Mr Frank Semm, hon. secretary.

HUTT VALLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—Rose Show, 20th November; Sweet Pea and Carnation Show, 18th December; Autumn Show, April, 1913.—T. E. Barker, Wellington, secretary.

HAMILTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—Summer Show, November 21; Autumn Show, April, 1913.—Wm. H. Paul, secretary and treasurer.

NORTH OTAGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—Summer Show, December 5.—W. Macintyre, secretary, Oamaru.

AUCKLAND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—Grand Summer Exhibition, Town Hall, December 6 and 7.—W. Satchell, managing director, Swanson Street.

THE POLYANTHUS.

I would remind any beginners who are looking a little way ahead that the polyanthus gives a good account of itself in the spring. It makes a fine show in clumps, and does fairly well as an edging. It is very easily come at, there is no need to buy plants, seed is very cheap, and young plants are better than old ones. I do not include in that the faced varieties, as the result is apt to be disappointing, but the large flowering white, yellow and hose-in-hose, from seed are entirely satisfactory. There is also a new blue variety.

Pots, boxes, or the open ground can be used for the seed. If the open ground, then a shady place is best; in either case the surface of the soil should be made as fine as possible and gently pressed down so that the seed will not get into holes and be too deeply covered. This is a point needing very careful attention in the case of all small seeds. Another point of importance, and one in which beginners very often go wrong, is sowing too thickly. There seems to be an idea that thinning out will make all right, however thickly the sowing has been done. This is quite a mistake, for in very thick sowing the seedlings are ruined before the thinning begins, before it can begin. The earlier the seed is got in now the better the plants will be.—H.H.

WELLINGTON ROSE AND CARNATION CLUB.

The schedules for this Society's meetings have been issued. The Rose Show takes place on November 12. The classes have evidently been so arranged that

quality may be obtained, three and six blooms being in most instances the number required, and these again are assigned to colours. There is also a class for fragrant red roses. All of these appear to us to be well fitted for bringing out the best, more especially for those with a limited number of plants.

The Summer Show is fixed for December 11. At this meeting sweet peas and carnations are the principal flowers. We

STOPPING PERPETUAL CARNATIONS.

There is a twofold object in stopping perpetual carnations. The first is to regulate the season of flowering and to preserve the plant's energy, the second is to build up a shapely plant.

The perpetual carnation is perpetually flowering because it is perpetually growing, but to allow a plant to produce a large crop of flowers at one time is un-

first step do not all grow away evenly, and in the case of perpetual carnations this is a decided advantage. As the leading side growths reach the required length, which, as a general rule, is six joints, or sets of leaves, from the main stem, they should be stopped. Go over the plants systematically each week, just stopping those which have reached the correct length, if possible never stopping more than one growth at a time, thus minimising the check.

The opposite method to this would be to allow the shoots to grow away until one day you would make a wholesale slaughter of them, but such a method cannot be logically upheld.

The absurdity of just pulling out the point of the growth instead of removing the entire top with a set of developed leaves intact is that the remaining eyes are more or less in the same degree of maturity, and so break more evenly, whereas if only the point of the growth is removed, the tendency is for only one or two breaks to be produced at the top of the shoot.

If a plant is allowed to get into a poor starved condition it cannot break freely, and the breaks on several varieties are not so numerous in a spell of very dull, wet weather or during a period of drought.

USEFUL GARDEN WRINKLES.

ASTER WILT.—The "disease" of China asters generally known as aster "wilt," can be prevented by stirring wood-ashes in the soil before sowing the seeds and before planting in the open. The soil about each plant should be watered several times during the season with tobacco water.

RUST ON HOLLYHOCKS.—Hollyhock rust is the bane of every person who tries to grow hollyhocks. There is no remedy for it, but a great deal can be done toward preventing it and reducing the damage by spraying the plants with Bordeaux mixture. Spraying should commence as soon as the leaves show above ground, and should be continued until the flowering season, at intervals of two weeks. When the plant has flowered, spray until fall. Permanganate of potash, or Comdy's fluid, has also been found useful in checking this rust, one tablespoonful of fluid to 2 gals. water.

WHEN TRANSPLANTING.—Loss of such plants as cabbage, cauliflower and celery from wilt may be largely avoided, when transplanting, by cutting off one-half of the leaf surface, and "paddle" the roots an hour or two before setting.

REMOVING LABELS.—Remove the wired labels on plants received from the nurserymen, and substitute another form. The wire girdles the stem, injuring, and sometimes killing, the top. String labels, though not so harmful, should also be removed. Enter names in a book where permanent plant labels are not available.

QUICK GERMINATION.—The germination of seeds with hard coverings, such as cornus, eucalyptus, and even morning-glories, can be hastened by soaking them in warm water for two to twelve hours. Sow the seeds at once upon removing them from the water. If given this treatment, morning-glories will bloom in six weeks from sowing. The harder the seed is, the longer and warmer should be the soaking.



A FINE SEEDLING CYCLAMEN FROM WELLINGTON.

This fine specimen of the Butterfly variety of Cyclamen was grown from seed by Mr F. Foxwell, of Wellington. The blooms, of which there are over thirty, are a delicate pink in colour.

observe that in sweet peas 12 varieties are the maximum required, 10 sprays only of each sort to be set up, gosses or gypsophila being allowed in addition to sweet pea foliage. To our thinking this would have been better if confined to only one dressing, and that own foliage. There is no class for novelties raised in the Dominion. Probably the Society leaves this for the National?

The carnation and picotee classes are numerous and well managed. Copies of the schedule may be obtained on application to the joint hon. secretaries, Messrs. H. A. Fox and J. E. S. Lord, Wellington.

wise, inasmuch as it places undue strain upon the plant, and the flowers themselves cannot be nearly so fine. Furthermore, it is encouraging the old hereditary "cropping" tendency, which raisers for over half a decade have been endeavoring to eliminate from the race. Naturally, if you stop all the growths on a plant at once, they will flower at the same time, so that it is most essential that we should work in the opposite direction, and so break up the "cropping" tendency.

We will presume that the young plants were stopped at the fifth or sixth joint from the surface of the soil, and now carry some five or six good growths. In the natural course of events these young side growths produced after the