

LIFE IN THE GARDEN

Official Organ of the New Zealand Sweet Pea Society and Auckland Horticultural Society.

By Veronica.

All communications for "Veronicas" 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.

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 Seun, 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. Macandrew, secretary, Oamaru.

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

SWEET PEA NOTES.

Messrs. Dickson and Sons, the raisers of King White, have decided not to send out seed until the autumn of 1913.

Owing to the very severe weather and heavy rains all through August, the crops of all sweet peas in England will be very short. A blizzard, accompanied with heavy rain during the last week in August almost destroyed some of the sweet pea crops. Fortunately, the pods formed during July weathered the storm, but those formed later were destroyed. One grower says: "The wind and rain has destroyed most of my sweet peas, and thousands of unripened seed pods are lying on the ground. The ground is literally strewn with them." It is reported that the Californian seed will also be short.

Mr. Andrew Ireland, writing to Mr. Walter P. Wright, says: "I think Deal's Kathleen a topper." Mr. Wright confirms this statement. Mr. Ireland also thinks highly of White King and Walter P. Wright. He believes that King White will beat Constance Hinton, the giant white which aroused so much interest at the trials. Mr. Arthur Ballam considers that one type of Constance Hinton is superior to King White. Scarlet Emperor and Red Star are still considered the best of the scarlets.

To get four sweet pea blooms on one stem is usually as much as the ordinary grower can manage. A gentleman in Lancaster sent sprays containing seven and eight blooms. This was outdone by Mr. Oswald Leefe, of Malton, who sent a photograph showing no less than nine blooms on a stem.

HORTICULTURAL NOTES.

The Best Sweet Peas.—Sweet pea exhibitions in Scotland are quite a popular institution. Special events are held in

several centres, and first-class displays made by enthusiastic cultivators. We gather that at these functions some of the best varieties shown have been in salmon shades, Barbara and Melba; Thos. Stevenson, scarlet; Maud Ho'mes, red; Florence Nightingale, lavender; Hercules, pink; Isabel Malcolm, ivory; Louis Matilda, the purest and best white; May Farquhar, Malcolm's Purple and Mauve Green, in blue and mauve shades.

Roses on Their Own Roots.—In Australia this method of growing roses is adopted in the case of several varieties which do well. It has not been much in vogue in New Zealand. In the Palmerston North province it has been demonstrated that Souvenir De Leonii Vieuxnot, when grown in this manner, is a perpetual bloomer. When budded this fine rose generally fails to do much in the way of autumn flowers. This opens up an interesting subject worthy of investigation, viz., what varieties will give best results when grown on their own roots.

Planting Chrysanthemums.—Those contemplating planting chrysanthemums

should, without delay, attend to the preparation of the ground which they are to occupy. It is a good plan to give chrysanthemums a bed or patch to themselves. The plant is a gross feeder, and if good results are desired the soil must be well enriched with good manure. Wood ashes and soot are also beneficial, and the soil should be thoroughly broken up and deeply dug.

Rhododendrons and Azaleas.—When they have finished flowering these plants will be all the better if given some manure as a mulch. They resent digging about the roots.

Sticks for Heavy Roses.—Many beautiful roses are often spoiled ere they expand simply for the want of a thin stick to support their great weight. Such sorts as Maman Cochet and its white sport Media and others, are soon bending to the ground after a shower, and even before, and unless on standards or walls will be quite spoiled if they are not held up. Roses budded last summer must be well looked after as regards supports, or heavy gales will soon blow them out of the stock. Bamboo canes answer well for this work.

Green Fly and Mildew.—To keep these pests in subjection we should not wait until they are in great evidence, but rather spray frequently as a preventive. Any pieces of growth that are badly affected with mildew should be removed and burnt.

APPLE BLOSSOM.

Our illustration shows an apple tree with a fine display of blossom, which augurs well for a good fruit crop, provided weather and soil conditions are favourable, and the owner is energetic and persevering to keep pests in check. The most dreaded and most destructive pest to the apple is the codling moth, and it may not be out of place for us to remind our readers that without spraying their apple and pear trees with some standard brand of arsenate of lead, a clean lot of fruit cannot be secured. The first spraying should be given as soon as possible after the fruit has set, in order that the poison may



A FINE DISPLAY OF APPLE BLOSSOM.