

**RHODODENDRON, MRS. H. SHELSON.**

Dear Veronica.—In your publication of 9th inst you illustrate the flower of a Rhododendron, "Mrs. H. Shelson." As I am somewhat partial to this class of shrub, I should be thankful if you will advise me where plants of this variety can be purchased. Thanking you in anticipation, Yours faithfully, H. ADAM.

Reply:—We have endeavoured to get the desired information from Nurserymen, but they are unable to furnish any. As our photograph came to us from England it is probably a new variety recently exhibited; these plants consequently will not be available here for some time. Should any of our readers be able to furnish information re this variety we should be pleased to hear from them.

**CYCLAMENS.**

Mental Hospital, Auckland,  
October 26th, 1912.

Dear Veronica.—I have much pleasure in supplying you with the following information re "Specimen of cyclamen" ("Graphic," October 2nd). I planted the cyclamen about one year old, well hardened off, in the open and let it remain in the same position for the last seven or eight years; in November I mulch with well rotten stable manure and plant some annuals round the bulb so as to shade it from the sun, and during summer I water them whenever the ground is too dry. All my cyclamen are treated in the above manner, and are doing well with hardly any loss.—Sincerely yours,

F. LANG.

**NEW DAHLIAS.**

A joint committee of the Royal Horticultural Society and the National Dahlia Society on September 25 gave certificates to a number of new dahlias, of which the best were Mr Stredwick's garden cactus Jenny Wrenn, a very pretty pale salmon pink variety, and Mr J. T. West's decorative variety Useful, with rose pink flowers. Both varieties were characterised by the stout stalks on which the flowers were held boldly above the foliage.

**NATIONAL ROSE SOCIETY.**

The finest autumn show yet held by this society filled the Royal Horticultural Hall on September 12 with beauty and fragrance. The competition was first-rate, and the attendance quite unusually large.

**New Roses.**

Five new roses secured recognition, and these are described under "New Plants, etc."

Gold Medals were granted to Sunburst, from M. J. Pernet-Ducher, Veniseux les Lyon, France; to Mrs. Chas. E. Pearson, from Messrs. S. McGredy and Son, Port-au-Prince; and to British Queen, also from Messrs. McGredy.

Silver-Gilt Medal, to Little Dorrit, from Messrs. Paul and Son, Cheshunt.

Silver Medal, to Queen of the Musk, from Messrs. Paul and Son, Cheshunt.

**Nurserymen.**

There were nine competitors in the class for three dozen exhibition roses, distinct varieties, staged in boxes, and first prize was won by Messrs. Hugh Dickson and Co., Ltd., Royal Nurseries, Belfast, whose leading varieties were Leslie Holland, Mrs. Foley Hobbs, Frau Karl Druschki, Mrs. Mawley, Caroline Textout, Mrs. Maynard Linton, Alex. Hill Gray, W. R. Smith, Miss Cynthia Ford, Lyon Rose, Lady Pirrie, Mrs. D. McKee, Chas. de Lapise, and Gloire de Chedane Guinousseau.

**Roses in Baskets.**

The display of roses in round baskets has proved far more successful than the method of staging blooms in bamboo stands. The class for nine baskets of roses, in as many varieties, each basket to be fourteen inches inside diameter, brought out but one entry. The successful exhibitor was Mr. John Mattock, who staged beautiful blooms of Mdm. Jules Gravereaux, Mrs. Sharnan Crawford, Mrs. D. McKee, Frau Karl Druschki, Hugh Dickson, Caroline Textout, Bessie Brown, Pharisier, and Mrs. Wakefield C. Miller.

Another basket class, open to nurserymen, was one for a dozen blooms of any

exhibition rose, and here Messrs. Frank Cant and Co. scored with Frau Karl Druschki in fine form.

In the class for nine baskets of perpetual decorative roses, the entries numbered five, the winning set coming from Messrs. Hugh Dickson, Belfast, who showed fine sets of Irish Elegance, Dett, Harry Kirk, Reine Marie d'Haile, Lady Pirrie, Dorothy Page Roberts, Gen. McArthur, Mdm. Melanie Souperet, and Mrs. Chas. E. Allan. The easier class, for five baskets of decorative roses, brought out five entries, Messrs. W. Spooner and Son, Woking, leading, with Joseph Hill, Gen. McArthur, La Tosca, Mdm. Abel Chatenay, and Orleans.

**Nurserymen's Decorative Roses.**

A good class is that for eighteen distinct varieties of roses, not more than seven stems of each, shown in vases, the vases, in sizes, being respectively 9, 8, and 6 1/2 inches high. There were but two entrants, and first prize was won by Mr. J. Mattock, Headington, with Teresa Bevan, Bardou Job, Marie Van Houtte, Mons. P. Lede, Lyon Rose, Mrs. Aaron Ward, and Dorothy Page Roberts.

The decorative value of autumn roses is fairly well demonstrated by the class for two dozen distinct varieties, not less than three or more than seven trusses of a variety, the whole arranged on a space 8ft. by 3ft. Mr. J. Mattock, Headington, gained first prize, and showed pretty bunches of La Tosca, Lady Hillingdon, General McArthur, A. R. Goodwin, Irish Elegance, Mons. Paul Lede, and Lady Pirrie.

Under similar conditions, but to fill a space 5ft. by 3ft., and to consist of twelve varieties, another class was provided, and here there were five entries, the best being from Messrs. W. Spooner and Son, Arthur's Bridge, Woking, who showed Gustave Regis, General McArthur, Lady Pirrie, La Tosca, Souv. de M. de Zayas, Miss Dorothy Mocatta, A. R. Goodwin, Irish Elegance, Jessie, Trier, and Orleans.

**Groups of Roses.**

An area of 150 square feet is allowed for a representative display of roses, arranged on the floor. In this class pot plants and cut flowers variously arranged, but not in exhibition boxes, are required. Ferns and foliage plants are permitted as edging and background. The gold medal and first prize was awarded to Messrs. Hobbies, Ltd., Dereham, for a pleasing arrangement of weeping standards, arches of ramblers, and a central basket, bed of the pretty polyanthus rose Jessie. Around and among these subjects were stands and vases of Lemon Queen, Lyon Rose, Lady Ursula, Madame Abel Chatenay, and other good roses.

The most effective class in the whole exhibition is the one in which the schedule requirements are "A representative group of cut roses to be placed on the staging. To be shown in plain glasses, vases, jars, baskets, etc., but not in exhibition boxes. Space occupied by exhibit not to exceed 18ft. by 6ft." The gold medal and first prize fell to Messrs. Gunn and Sons, Olton, who had charming arches of white, pink, and red roses, supported by pillars of Madame Abel Chatenay, Lyon, and other fine sorts. In the front centre the Lyon Rose was massed finely between arching stands of Lady Hillingdon, and on either hand were fine stands and vases of Frau Karl Druschki, Lyon, Betty, Liberty, Gruss an Teplitz, etc., the whole making up a most delightful exhibit of lovely flowers.

Scarcely of less interest was the class for a similar display, but arranged on a space not exceeding 60 square feet. Messrs. R. Harkness and Co., Hitchin, annexed the leading award here with a charming display of fine blooms. The stands they used were of varied height and shape, and the principal varieties of roses used were Rayon d'Or, Frau Karl Druschki, Irish Elegance, Harry Kirk, Lady Hillingdon, La France, Madame Abel Chatenay, and Lyon Rose.

**Amateurs.**

In the open amateur class for eighteen blooms, distinct, the best of seven entries was the one from Mr. Conway Jones, Gloucester, who staged fine flowers of Mdm. Wagram Comtesse de Turenne, Florence Penberton, Lyon Rose, Lady Ursula, and Earl of Warwick; Mr. F. Dennison, Cranford, Leamington, second; and Mr. W. Boyes Middleton, Yorks, third. Growers of fewer than 2,000 plants had a class for a dozen distinct varieties, and here the premier award fell to Mr. G. Speight, Market Harborough, whose best flowers were of Mdm. C. Souperet, H. Dickson, and J. B. Clark.

A class for nine blooms, distinct, was provided for growers of fewer than 1,000

plants, and the winner was Mr. G. Moules, Hitchin, who had a good set of Mildred Grant, Frau Karl Druschki, Mrs. Mawley, Caroline Textout, W. R. Smith, Mdm. V. Verdier, W. Shean, Bessie Brown, and D. Cordell.

For five varieties, five stems of each, in vases, the leading prizewinner was Mr. W. P. Panckridge, Petersfield, whose Mdm. Jules Gravereaux was fine. Six amateurs came forward with three baskets of roses, representing three varieties, and Mr. Conway Jones led with White Maman Cochet, Auguste Comte, and Hugh Dickson.

**Decorative Exhibits.**

The table decoration class was accommodated in the lecture hall, and the competition was excellent. Mrs. Robinson, Park Hill, Carshalton, won first prize with a combination of Irish Elegance and the Lyon Rose. First prize for a bowl of roses fell to Mrs. L. Courtney Page, Earldoms, Enfield, for a beautiful arrangement of Kaiserin Augusta Victoria. Mrs. J. W. Smith led for a decorative basket of roses with a bold design of Irish Glory, Mrs. F. H. Cooke, Birch, Colchester, led in the open bowl class for lady members with Frau Karl Druschki; Mrs. J. W. Smith, second, with Irish Elegance.

**Silver Medal Roses.**

The Silver Medal blooms in the trade section were as follows: Best tea rose, Mrs. Foley Hobbs, shown by Mr. George Prince, Longworth; best hybrid tea rose, Miss Cynthia Ford, and the best H.P. rose, Gloire de Chedane Guinousseau, both exhibited by Messrs. Hugh Dickson, Ltd., Belfast. In the amateurs' section the best H.P. rose was Frau Karl Druschki, staged by Mr. F. Slaughter, Steyning; best H.T. variety, Mdm. Wagram Comtesse de Turenne, shown by Mr. Conway Jones, Gloucester; and the best tea rose, White Maman Cochet, also shown by Mr. Conway Jones.

**NEW ROSES.**

At the Royal Horticultural Society's Show, held on September 25, four new roses won awards of merit, of which George Dickson is one of the finest roses introduced in recent years. It adds to the continuous flowering habit of the hybrid tea a deep velvety crimson colour, strong scent, fine form, and great substance, more generally associated with the hybrid perpetuals. Mrs. MacKellar is a large lemon yellow, and Ed. Bohane a bright crimson hybrid tea. These three are Irish raised roses shown by Messrs. A. Dickson. Messrs. G. Paul (Cheshunt) won an award with Little Dorrit, a pretty garden rose combining shades of apricot and crimson, which won a medal at the last show of the National Rose Society.

**MINA LOBATA.**

A lovely autumn flowering tuber from Mexico belonging to the same natural order as the convulvulus. Although allied to this family and now referred to as an Ipomoea, it must not be confused with the ordinary morning glories, on which in most cases the flowers are solitary, whereas on the Mina lobata, the flowers are borne on spikes from eight to ten inches in length, ranging from ten to twelve flowers about the size of salvia splendens upon each individual spike. The buds are at first a vivid red, but turn to orange yellow before they open and when fully expanded the flowers are of a creamy white—a lovely combination with the three different shades of red, yellow and cream upon the same spike. This plant is a very rapid grower, and when grown in congenial soil, will attain a height of 15 feet in three months. The foliage is similar to that of Ipomoea batatas (sweet potato). It will be found an ideal flower for vases or table decoration as it will last for fully a week, cut. Coming into flower in late autumn when most flowers are on the wane, it fully deserves a place in every garden, more especially when cut flowers are a desideratum. I have grown this subject for many years and from the numerous inquiries regarding it, the following cultivation notes may perhaps prove useful.

The seed is usually sown under glass in shallow boxes, in November, in the following compost—two of turf rubbed through a 1/2 inch sieve, one of sand and one of leaf-mould. Keep the frame closed and shaded until the plants are about two inches high, then allow a little air

until the plants have attained the height of 4 inches, then pot them off into three or four inch pots and again keep the frame close and shaded for a few days until they have taken root, then gradually harden off prior to removing to their permanent situation. The plant will adapt itself to almost any soil or situation provided the ground is well dug and enriched with stable manure. A handful of bonedust will also prove beneficial, also a mulch of stable manure, when about 4 feet high. It can be grown on a single pole but is seen to best advantage when grown upon a trellis or over a summer house. Unfortunately, it is only an annual, nevertheless it will amply repay for any little attention bestowed. H.W.D.

**FLOWERS FOR A SHADY BORDER.**

One often hears a half complaint about flower-borders that only get partial sun, and unfavourable comparisons with others which are reached by the sun the whole day.

In many instances these shady borders are a boon to gardeners, more especially in large gardens and public domains, where a succession of bloom has to be maintained throughout the year. We do not often regard the shady portion of the garden as the best for the growing of roses, yet one is bound to confess from experience of it, that it has been from such places one has many times gathered bloom of finer quality than elsewhere, simply because the buds have developed gradually and have not been hastened by intense heat. Take for example that beautiful old rose, Jean Ducher. Grown in a partially shaded border or under a tree it is indeed very beautiful and worth cultivating on account of its vigorous growth and free flowering propensities. Planted out in the open, this old lady's charm will soon fade and is not worth keeping on your visiting list. The hybrid perpetual, Dr. Hogg, the nearest approach to a blue we have, is well worth growing when planted in the shade. If exposed to the full rays of the sun it burns and is not worth garden room. The same may be said of that old aristocrat, the Earl of Dufferin, a rich velvety maroon, a grand flower when partially shaded. Last season my best blooms and latest flowering roses were cut from the shady border. Madame Lambert, Maman Cochet and Jean Ducher flowered right through the winter. I contend that the half-shady spot may be made the most attractive for the longest period. Take the case of a few flowers at present in bloom. Paeonies furnish a good example. Few summer blossoms are more rich in colour, few indeed are more useful to the lover of cut flowers, but how frequently do we see that when planted in a spot devoid of shade their beauty is of short duration, whereas if given the advantage of shade as well as sun the period is prolonged. We sometimes look upon the sunny border as an altogether ideal spot for the growing of many annuals, but when we experience a dry spell we are forced to the conclusion that after all the border screened for some period of the day from the extreme heat of the sun has its uses. Pansies, Mimulus, Stocks, Schizanthus, Candytuft, Dianthus, Impatiens Hobbit, Sweet Sultan, Tuberosa Begonias, Canterbury Bells, Cyclamen, Delphinium and Sweet Peas planted in such situations in late spring will prove good subjects for such borders and present blooms when old Sol has frizzled up their once gay companions in the open border. H.W.D.

**THE NEMESIA.**

This beautiful orange-blossomed annual is by no means so widely cultivated as its merits demand. In Auckland it is almost the first annual to give a fine display of bloom, as it comes into flower during the month of June, mid-winter, and flowers continuously until the hot weather sets in. Seeds should be planted in the early autumn. Sow in pans, or boxes, of light soil that has been passed through a 1/2 inch riddle. Scatter the seeds thinly and evenly, and just cover with finely sifted soil. Give a gentle watering through a very fine rose, cover with a sheet of glass and a piece of paper, and set in a greenhouse. Many people fail to grow nemesias simply by placing the seed pans in too high a temperature; the seeds will not germinate freely in a temperature much above 60deg., indeed, a few degrees less will be found to answer better than a few degrees above. As soon as the first signs of growth appear through