

It was very striking and made a very excellent centre piece for the hall.

Messrs. F. Cooper Ltd., and T. Waugh were responsible for two rather fine nurserymen's displays, while Miss Joseph's table of calladiums, large palms, etc., kindly lent for the occasion, helped materially in the big display.

Last, but by no means least, was a small table of begonia blooms from Mr. G. A. Chapman. These were truly magnificent, and in size, colour, and type, would be hard to surpass in any part of the world. They proved a great attraction.

tion in Wellington have we had such fine blossoms in such profusion as this season. The main reasons for this are that we have now better varieties than formerly; we understand them better, and we shade them when in bloom. With 350 plants it was my good fortune to have 1,000 blooms out on Christmas day, many on stems from 3ft. to 3ft. 6in. long, the blossom measuring from 3 1/2 in. to 4 inches across—and in one instance I was able to pick Bob Acres and stage it—with own foliage) without a bluish 4 1/2 inches in diameter.

In size, most of my plants measure 18



JOHN RIDD.

A splendid fancy of great size and undoubted excellence. The specimen shown is 24 inches across, and was grown by Mr H. A. Fox, of Wellington.

THE CULTURE OF CARNATIONS.

MR. H. A. FOX EXPLAINS HIS METHODS.

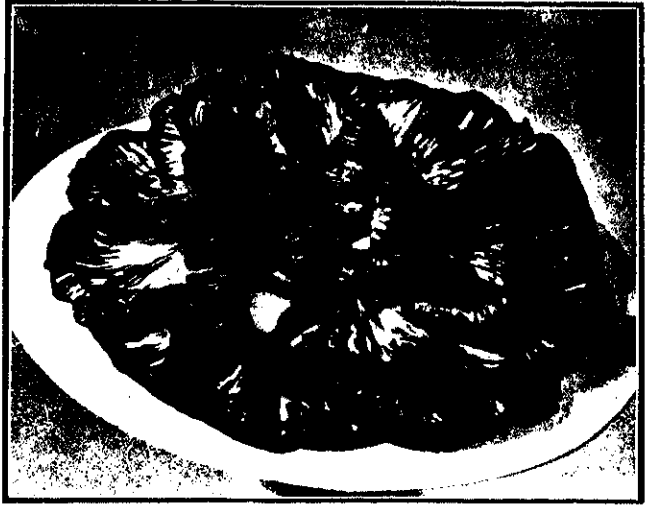
An interesting lecture on the culture of the carnation took place in the Chamber of Commerce last week, under the auspices of the Auckland Horticultural Society. The lecturer was Mr. H. A. Fox, the well known Wellington specialist, who displayed about 70 fine blooms of admirable size and exquisite colouring. The room was crowded and many people remained standing in the corridor, until the conclusion of the address, when those inside retired in order to let the others in to see the fine display of blooms. Mr. Whyte, the well-known carnation grower of Auckland, presided, and expressed pleasure at the fact that there was such a large attendance to listen to Mr. Fox's lecture.

In the course of his remarks Mr. Fox said:—

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tion in Wellington have we had such fine blossoms in such profusion as this season. The main reasons for this are that we have now better varieties than formerly; we understand them better, and we shade them when in bloom. With 350 plants it was my good fortune to have 1,000 blooms out on Christmas day, many on stems from 3ft. to 3ft. 6in. long, the blossom measuring from 3 1/2 in. to 4 inches across—and in one instance I was able to pick Bob Acres and stage it—with own foliage) without a bluish 4 1/2 inches in diameter.

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A FINE SPECIMEN OF LINKMAN.

This fine carnation, measuring 3 1/2 inches across, was the champion bloom at the recent Lower Hutt Show, where it was exhibited by Mr H. A. Fox, of Wellington.

that the beds should be 6 inches higher than the path for the sake of good drainage, and that the top spit should be trodden firmly, then forked over lightly and loosened to a depth of three inches.

My layers are always firmly planted (but not rammed hard), and then from planting time right up to blooming, the ground is lightly forked over to a depth of 3 inches, three to six times weekly. Personally I believe this continuous forking, but without disturbing the plants,

Lord of Wellington and myself adopted a new system. We put up frames, say, 3ft. 6in. to 4ft. above the beds, and these we covered with latticed frames (6-inch mesh), which were covered with oiled paper. To prevent damage to this waterproof material by weather we nailed it between the top and bottom lattice boards. Each frame was made the width of the bed and about 6ft. long so that they should do for three or four years if taken care of. They



MRS. ROBERT MORTON.

Deep salmon self, 3 1/2 inches in diameter. Grown by Mr H. A. Fox.



SAN REMO, A BEAUTIFUL FANCY, 4 INCHES ACROSS, FROM MR FOX'S COLLECTION.

is one of the greatest factors in my success with carnation growing. It is easily and quickly done because the soil soon becomes friable, and is then no trouble to turn. The benefits are:

- (1) No caking of the soil can take place.
- (2) The ground is always aerated.
- (3) The plants look better, do better, and produce better blooms.

Disbudding is very essential. Mostly I leave the crown or top bud and the two lowest ones, although on the weaker varieties I am sure the best blooms are obtained when only one bud is grown on a stem or two at the outside. This especially refers to piecetes and some of the selfs.

To prevent the calyx splitting each crown bud should have a rubber band placed on, just before the buds show colour. If the buds are exceptionally large, then they should be carefully tied with raffia instead of using the rubber band.

I am fully satisfied that it is best to grow carnations in narrow beds—to have only two rows in a bed, and to plant not less than 18 inches apart.

Now comes an all important feature, and that is shading. This year both Mr.

were tied on to the frames as soon as the buds began to show colour. The results were simply lovely. It kept the hot sun from burning the petals, and an

EXTRA CHOICE

CARNATIONS

THE FINEST COLLECTION IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE

I am prepared to accept a limited number of orders for Bordered Young Plants for April delivery, if ordered immediately.

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H. A. FOX,

17, HIRROI STREET, WELLINGTON, N.Z.