

Horticulture.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The Midsummer Exhibition of this society was held in the Normal School Grounds, on Wednesday, the 18th of July. The day was warm and fine; the inspiring band of the Rifle Brigade was present; a very considerable quantity of fruits, flowers and vegetables, were tastefully arranged in the two tents erected for the purpose; and yet, strange to say, the attendance was most meagre. We can scarcely account for this paucity of visitors, except by supposing that the inhabitants of Toronto are so afraid of the much dreaded cholera, that they think twice about *looking* at vegetables, having been so fully warned not to *eat* them. We cannot imagine that it was owing to a want of taste for horticultural pursuits, for the attendance on the first exhibition was very considerable, although the weather was far from favorable. Whatever may have been the cause which kept visitors away, it is much to be regretted, as the fees for admission must always form a large proportion of the income of the society, which has to be applied to the payment of the various prizes. We know that on the present occasion prizes were not allotted to several articles which in reality deserved them, owing to the absolute necessity existing for the Judges keeping within bounds; and the society can only hope to succeed and to become useful in promoting emulation among all connected with gardening, by offering a large number of prizes for competition. We hope that our fellow citizens will assist in so laudable an undertaking, either by becoming members or by not failing to visit the ensuing exhibition.

The number of articles exhibited was not altogether so great as might have been expected, several of our most successful gardeners having (we know not from what causes) neglected to send any specimens. We did not observe any thing from Messrs. Turner, Gordon, or Mansfield, whose names we have heretofore generally found on the prize list. The peculiar nature of the season may perhaps also account for some articles not being sent in as great perfection as could be wished, such for instance as cauliflower and brocoli, although a very respectable specimen of the latter was exhibited by Mr. Cull.

Among the flowers, we noticed a very fine grown specimen of the splendid cactus *speciosissimus*, from Mr. Justice Draper's conservatory, and a well grown *stoea carnosa* from Mr. Hancock's.

A fine specimen of *crassula coccinea* was exhibited by Mr. Fleming, among his twelve greenhouse plants; while his collection of fuchsias was exceedingly fine, both on account of the size of the blossom and the growth of the plants; although it only received a second prize, on account (we believe) of Mr. Hancock's collection containing a greater variety of kinds.

A fine collection of hardy roses was shown by Mr. Leslie, although the season was too advanced to have these flowers in perfection; while the cockscombs were not arrived at their full growth, and were consequently not good.

Three floral ornaments were exhibited by Mr. Hancock, Mr. Fleming, and Mr. Leslie, the first distinguished by the beauty and variety of the flowers, the second by the elegance of the design, and the third by the richness in garden flowers. The judges very properly, we think, did not classify them, but allotted a prize to each, being all excellent.

The display of fruits was very good; the gooseberries, from Mr. E. Turner, were magnificent; the grapes, from Mrs. Bull, very early and well ripened; red raspberries, from Mr. Humphreys and Mr. Fleming, sufficiently luscious to make one's mouth water; while the display of white, black and red currants, was so great that the judges must have had very considerable difficulty in determining which was the best. Well ripened melons were exhibited by Mr. Margetson.

Among the vegetables, we may especially allude to Mr. Lewis' potatoes, Mr. Sherwood's and Mr. Collier's cabbages, Mr. Margetson's rhubarb, as well as the seedlings from Mr. Leslie, and carrots, parsnips, beets, onions, &c., &c., from a number of gardeners.

The vegetable department was on the whole the most creditable; so many excellent specimens were exhibited that our space will not allow us to particularize them all, and we refer our readers to the accompanying list of the successful competitors.

It is to be hoped that the next exhibition will surpass the two former, and that every gardener or amateur who has any thing that he thinks worthy of exhibition will not be backward in sending it to the autumn show. We understand that the next meeting will be held shortly after the Provincial Show, and consequently very early in October or late in September.

The following is the list of prizes:

Exotic in flower, 1st prize, Mr. Hennah for	
Mr. Hancock	£0 7 6
Do. 2nd prize, Mr. Sherwood	0 5 0