

## Our Affiliated Societies.

**GRIMSBY.**—At our annual meeting, after the election of officers, it was decided to hold monthly meetings, beginning the first Saturday evening in February, from 7.30 to 9.30. The committee will either secure a lecture, a paper from some member as the principal feature of the evening, to be followed by questions and discussion, or will provide a topic, as for example the Dahlia or the Palm, and ask each member to bring a reading on the topic, not to exceed three minutes, except perhaps in the case of the opening reading. The evening will, of course, be brightened by musical contributions. In this way much valuable information will be gained by every member in the course of a few years, and the effect must become noticeable in the flower gardens of the community.

**PORT HOPE.**—The annual meeting of the Horticultural Society was held in the council chamber on Wednesday, Jan. 10th, to receive the Secretary and Treasurer's report and elect directors for the year 1900. The Treasurer's report for 1899 was read showing an expenditure of \$2.15, from which each member received a monthly magazine, bulbs, plants, etc., leaving a balance of sixty dollars for the current year.

H. H. Burnham was elected president and A. W. Pringle, secretary-treasurer.

**WOODSTOCK.**—The exhibit held recently by our Horticultural Society may be considered a fairly successful one, both in a financial way and in the larger attendance of the public generally. Although this be so our members must not rest content, considering that the acme of perfection has been arrived at, nor must they be misled by the kind words of approval with which their efforts were received. In making some comments on the Show the writer hopes that her remarks will not be taken as unkind criticism, but in the belief that the consideration of any points which may be raised will lead to discussion which shall ultimately result in benefit to our members. The arrangements were, on the whole, satisfactory, and showed the plants to good advantage, but, regarding the plants themselves, few of them, from a florist's standpoint at least, could be considered specimen or exhibition plants. Among those which might be mentioned as coming nearest to this standard may be named a *Latania Borbonica* Palm, a *Phoenix Reclinata* Palm, a flowering *Begonia*, a *Musa Ensete* and a *Strep-sophelon Jamesoni*, and of these possibly the first named palm was the best, being of a fair size and having perfect leaves. The majority of the plants exhibited were of such a character as looked well when massed, but individually would not look so well. The question then arises, can these plants be properly grown without the aid of glass? The answer would be that to a certain extent they can, but to be really successful with a large number the aid of glass is requisite. However, may it not also be asked do not amateurs endeavor to

grow too many plants and thus, by overcrowding, render it quite impossible to succeed as might be done by having fewer and consequently better grown plants? In certain classes of plants—the *Geranium* for instance—there seems to be a tendency to grow a very limited number of varieties, principally of the *Bruant* and *Souvenir de Mirande* type, the former of which, from their thicker leaves and semi-double flowers, stand the sun and rain better than the single and more double varieties. It seems a pity that this should be so for among some of the newer doubles and round-flowered English varieties, many of which carry flowers of over two inches in diameter and in large trusses, are to be found some which would be a perfect revelation of beauty to those who have not already seen them, and which make charming pot plants. Another matter to which our attention might with advantage be directed is that at our Shows, by the members at any rate, plants should have labels showing the name of the species to which they belong, and if the species be sub-divided into varieties, the name of the variety should be shown. Take for instance such a well-known plant as the *Fuchsia*, a visitor might be struck with the beauty of some particularly pretty variety and have a desire to possess a similar one. In this case if the name, Mrs. Marshall, Mrs. E. G. Hill, Phenomenal or whatever name by which the plant be known in commerce, be attached to it, the desire would be easily gratified.

Passing on to the cut flowers may we not ask why, in so large a Society as ours, together with contributions from others not members, as well, was the display so small and confined to so few classes? In order to bring out the facts as clearly as possible, let me as briefly as possible enumerate, as far as recollection will serve, the flowers shown: *Gladioli*, 2 exhibits; *Asters*, 2 or 3; *Cannas*, 1; *Phlox Drummondii*, 1; *Sweet Peas*, 1; *Stocks*, 1; a small collection of roses and two or three bouquets. Some of these, however, were very nice and nicely shown, notably the *Phloxes* which were shown in separate colors, this being a very desirable feature where it is at all practicable, because some shades of color in themselves beautiful do not harmonize well when shown together. The same to a certain extent might be said of the fruit, that is, that while good there was too little of it to make a proper showing. Might it not be suggested that our members, as far as possible, take up some special class or variety of plant, as has been done to each, and by devoting their attention more in the one channel secure greater perfection.

It is on these lines that the noted specialists in Europe (and may I mention our own Mr. Groff in *Gladioli*), have made world-wide reputations for themselves, and while we cannot hope even to emulate them yet there is more satisfaction in attempting little and doing that little well than by attempting too much, and by so doing fail even in pleasing ourselves. These remarks should not be brought to a close without referring to the regret