

as to culture and care of the same. This method intensifies the interest and awakens in the scholar the idea of being closely observant as to results, one of the principal factors necessary to success, and one that helps materially from all points of view.

BRANTFORD'S GOOD WORK

Excellent work of this nature has been done by the society at Brantford, Ont. It is described in a recent letter to *THE HORTICULTURIST* by Sec. R. Walter Brooks, whose letter reads as follows: "Our society, in 1903, held an exhibition of fruit, flowers and vegetables which was a failure, financially.

"In 1905 we distributed about 6,000 packages of seeds, including asters, scabiosa, verbenas, salpiglossis and Phlox drummondii. A package of each was given to any pupil desiring them. The exhibition took place in the fall, when we distributed about 125 plants and 500 hyacinths as prizes. Every exhibitor who did not get a plant was given a bulb. It was one of the most successful exhibitions ever held here, although we made no charge for anything.

"This year we are starting out on the same lines, but more extended. The seeds selected are asters, scabiosa, verbenas, zinnia and nasturtium. We did not consider that the children were successful with phlox and salpiglossis, hence the change. We have 8,775 packages ready for distribution this year. These include one ounce of asters, 150 packets with 100 seeds per package; one ounce of verbenas, 220 packets with 60 seeds per package; one ounce of scabiosa, 200 packets with 25 seeds per package; one pound of nasturtium, 355 packets with 10 seeds per package; one ounce of zinnia, 140 packets with 25 seeds per package.

"Papers have been distributed to the public and separate schools asking for the names of all those desiring seeds. I have 1,407 names from the public schools. The separate schools have not returned theirs yet. The officers and teachers of the schools render us all the assistance possible in getting the names and distributing the seeds."

SIMCOE CHILDREN INTERESTED

In the town of Simcoe, Ont., the horticultural society considers its work among the school children about the most valuable it undertakes. The chairman of the committee having charge of this work, Mr. Henry Johnson, has written *THE HORTICULTURIST* as fol-



Returns from One Season's Work with School Children

lows: "We commenced giving seeds to the children of our public schools in 1904, giving them that year, asters, nasturtiums and pansies. In the fall we had an exhibition, but did not offer prizes. There were 125 entries. The understanding was that only flowers grown from seeds given by the society should be shown.

"Last year we distributed the same kinds of seeds, but the children were told that flowers grown from any other seeds might compete as well. Our show was held in September and was a great success. There were 440 entries made by about 125 pupils. We had as high as 30 entries in a section, and judging was quite a task. Prizes to the value of \$50 or \$60 were awarded. They consisted of bulbs, seeds, plants and garden literature, donated by some of our members. Prizes were won by 54 children, some of them getting several.

"This year we gave them asters, phlox, verbenas and zinnias. About 230 of the pupils of the public school asked for seeds and we gave them about 650 packets. We bought only the best seed, got it at wholesale and put it in packets ourselves. The direct benefits from the distribution of seeds to the children in this way are apparent."

Tomatoes on Sod Land

W. C. McCalla, St. Catharines

We are considering planting tomatoes on a piece of new ground, sandy loam, which has not been plowed for 15 years. Will tomatoes do well on such land, if it is plowed early and cultivated?—(Subscriber, Collingwood.

I would advise you not to attempt to grow tomatoes this year on such land. Had the old sod been plowed

last fall, a large amount of work this spring with disk and drag harrows might put it into fair shape for tomatoes. I would, however, much prefer to give a heavy dressing of manure, plant corn this year, and it would then be in fine condition for tomatoes in 1907.

BULB DEPARTMENT

Questions answered by
Mr. Herman Simmers

Bulbs for Spring Planting

What common bulbs should be planted in the spring? What soil conditions are most desirable, and at what time of the season should they be planted? In what month or months do spring-planted bulbs bloom?—Subscriber, Owen Sound.

There are a number under this head. We will include corms, rhizomes, tubers, etc., in case Subscriber may not be aware of the exact term. All the bulbous appearing plants when dry have the appearance of bulbs, and this leads many people to think they are actually bulbs, whereas the actual botanical difference is very great, although the results are somewhat the same. To answer this question I will simply call them all bulbs, as is the usual custom.

The list includes: Tuberous rooted begonias, double and single flowering amaryllis, cannas, dahlias, gladioli, lilies, caladiums, callas, gloxinias, hyacinths, candelabras, tuberose, oxalis, tigridias.

In most cases the soil conditions are a well enriched sandy loam. The time of planting should be April and May. The flowering period continues from July until frost takes them off.