

The show of flowers and plants, owing probably to the coldness of the season, was not very good. The Committee are of opinion that many may have been deterred from sending plants from the fact of the bloom having gone off, but the Committee think that the public mind should be disabused of such error, as they are of opinion that the rarity and healthiness of the plant should be taken into consideration, in preference to the amount of bloom, especially as the Exhibition is held at so late a season in the year. The show of cut flowers was very good, as also was the show of phlox drummondii; the verbinas, of which there was only one entry, were especially fine. The Committee are of opinion that it would be better to make a better assortment of classes for premiums in the plants, by offering prizes, as far as the funds of the Society will admit of it, for sorts of flowers such as geraniums, pelargoniums, fuchsias, &c., as they consider that prizes only for one assorted lot of plants is inadequate, and not likely to produce sufficient competition.

Further, the Committee would suggest to the Managing Committee of the Agricultural Society, whether it would not be feasible to hold a special exhibit for flowers, earlier in the year, say in the month of August. In a town like Yarmouth, where so much taste is displayed in the cultivation of house and garden plants, the Committee think that a larger and very attractive show might be made, and the science of floriculture very much improved amongst us. If this is not feasible, might not a Floricultural Society be formed for this purpose?

Class 9.—FINE ARTS.

Entries, 66; Premiums, 21; Amount, \$22.50.

Committee—J. W. H. Rowley, Mrs. E. N. Viets, Miss Eudora Hilton.

In performing the duty assigned to them, the Committee at the outset established for themselves the following rule in awarding the prizes for Oil and Water Colour Painting, viz., that in all cases, other things being equal, preference should be shown to those productions which were either original in design or that were drawn from nature. They take the liberty of recommending that in future Exhibitions, if it should be found to be impracticable, the entries in oil and water colours should be classified, *e. g.*, in figures, whether of man or animal, in flowers and in landscape, as there must always be a difficulty in comparing a portrait with a bunch of flowers, or a bit of landscape scenery—as each have peculiarities which cannot well be brought into comparison with the others. In awarding the prizes in Water Colour to Lambrequins, No. 42 and No. 172, we met

with a difficulty something like that just referred to. We had to make a comparison there with work on silk and velvet, and work on velvet should be classed separately. The committee volunteer their opinion with reference to the two pieces of work just referred to. The draping and proportions of Lambrequin, No. 170 were very graceful and effective, more so than No. 42, the appearance of which was marred by the stiffness of the bullion fringe, with which it was bordered, but nevertheless we found ourselves compelled to make the first award to No. 42, as the painting of it was the best, and this was more especially the point under consideration. Pencilings and Crayons made but a scant exhibit, there being only six of the former and one of the latter. More attention ought to be given by the younger persons in the community to this branch of artistic work, as in the every day events of life they are more readily made use of than either oil or water color work. Of maps by public school pupils but one was shown, and that one but indifferently drawn, and to which only a third prize was awarded. There were no exhibits of drawing by public school pupils, but there were seventeen copy books, all apparently from the lower section Public school, and all of which presented a creditable appearance, being well written, neat and clean.

NOTE.—Owing to a misunderstanding of a rule of the Society, the Oil Painting which took first prize is debarred from competing, but this rule does not detract from the merits of the painting.—*Sec'y.*

Class 10.—BREAD, PRESERVES, &c.

Entries, 82; Premiums, 30; Amount, \$33.

Committee—William Law, Mrs. J. C. Farish, Mrs. J. K. Ryerson.

The Committee on Bread, Preserves and Jellies are happy to report a marked improvement on the exhibit this year. In quantity it has doubled. In Wheat Bread the quality was very fine, and the Committee found it a nice point to decide which was the best of the best, and the first of the first. Some of the Bread was a dainty dish to set before a King. It gives us much pleasure to see this improvement, for bread-making is an important, may we say, art? Next year they hope there will be a still greater advancement, and that there will be more Brown Bread entered, also Graham, Rye, and Indian. We would suggest that each loaf should be plainly marked, what it is. The exhibit in Brown bread was not much superior to former years.

In Preserves, Jellies and Pickles, there was a very good display of excellent quality, collections doing great credit to

the careful house-keepers. We recommend that at a future Exhibition separate prizes should be offered for Preserves and Jellies. Two collections of Pickles were entered, so exactly alike that the Committee could not say which was to receive the first prize, as both were especially good; so it would take a Solomon to decide. There were only two entries each of Wax and Honey, and both good.

Class 11.—DOMESTIC MANUFACTURES, FANCY WORK, &c.

Entries, 105; Premiums, 40; Amount, \$37.50.

Committee—James D. Dennis, Mrs. Thomas Allen, Mrs. J. L. R. Webster.

The Committee on Domestic Manufactures have much pleasure in being able to report that a marked improvement has taken place during the past year on almost all classes of articles in the above department.

The exhibit of rag and yarn mats was large and excellent, and the committee regret that they could not award a dozen prizes instead of three. There were quite a number of mats entered made of rags and yarn combined, which were well worthy of a prize, but as the prize list of the Society specifies rag mats and yarn mats, the committee was compelled to confine the prizes to mats made entirely either of rags or yarn. Two crimson dyed sheep-skin mats entered were well done, although more attention should be given to endeavor to render the skin soft. The Committee recommend that the Society include this article in its prize list for another year. Two door slips made of yarn, entered by No. 190, deserve honorable mention for beauty and harmony of color. There was not a large exhibit of home-made carpets, but as a class they were considered good. The twilled grey homespun was excellent, as was also the plain white, while the twilled white was not up to the previous years. The committee was also pleased to note a good collection of socks and mitts of a high standard. The good farmers' wives have also made much improvement in homespun yarns, although, as a rule, more care might be taken in the preparation of the wool. The exhibit of patch work quilts was fair and the work good; but in some cases the taste displayed in colorings was not the best. On the whole, the committee think that the Society may congratulate itself upon the display in this department, and whilst they performed their duty to the best of their judgment, they felt that in many instances they would like to have recommended special prizes, would the funds of the Society admit of it.

Class 11.—FANCY WORK.

Entries, 56; Premiums, 13; Amount, \$11.