

The matter of spending the society funds to best advantage requires considerable attention by the executive committees of the different horticultural societies. The best hints can be obtained by reading the reports from the most successful societies. The secretaries of many societies have sent *The Horticulturist* their views as to what work is liable to result in most good to the members and to the citizens. The distribution of seeds, plants and bulbs is recommended by all. All advise sending some horticultural paper to the members, and all except one prefer *The Horticulturist*. Garden and lawn competitions, flower shows, addresses by authorities on suitable and seasonable topics, and other similar lines of work are taken up by different societies.

The work done by the Deseronto society, and outlined and illustrated on pages 432 and 433 is worthy of emulation. The Stratford society has become famous for its annual exhibition. Guelph, Simcoe and a number of others have made excellent progress by working through the school children and in this way getting the parents interested.

In different societies different methods must be adopted. The directors of the society should study what is most needed in their town and then decide what is the best and most satisfactory means of obtaining that need. If the lawns and front gardens are in poor shape, lawn competitions should give good results. If few flowers are grown, the distribution of seeds and flower shows might be most desirable. In most cases, however, energetic societies can manage to combine two or more features in one season.

In the past the good work of some societies has been detracted from by having fruit and vegetables shown with the flowers. In these cases trouble has been caused through the fruit and vegetable exhibitors having scoured the country to secure a collection of the best that could be found in order to win the prize. When prizes are not given the exhibitors are not encouraged to show crops grown by others, but many reports say that where money prizes are not given the same enthusiasm is not displayed. In some cases the absence of prizes has caused a dearth of exhibitors.

The secretary of a society in western Ontario which has been doing fine work for eight or nine years writes: "We hold a two-day exhibition of plants, cut flowers, fruit and vegetables each fall, at which premiums are awarded as stated in the prize list which is published in April or May. Competitions in gardens, in which the decorative effect from the street is made a leading feature, are held, and prizes are given for lawns from which fences have been removed, and for boulevards. Besides, each member receives seeds or bulbs, or both, with a request to exhibit flowers from them at next year's exhibition.

"These flowers are called for in the prize list and premiums are awarded. This year we are giving sweet pea seeds in six varieties and a parcel of mixed flowering tulips. The peas will appear in next year's prize list, and the

tulips are a new departure that we expect will be appreciated. We also have had addresses on horticultural subjects.

"No charge is made by the society for the competition in gardens or lawns. Admission to



A Grand Old Man.

readers for *The Horticulturist*. Such devotion to a society should encourage the secretaries of other societies, and explains, in part, why *The Horticulturist* is steadily increasing in influence. The illustration shows Mr. Barker. The Kincardine society has been in useful activity for about eight years. It was organized with only 15 members, at which time Mr. Barker was chosen secretary and treasurer. The society has 126 members, and Mr. Barker still serves as a most efficient officer in the same capacity as at the start. Mr. Barker has been the clerk of the Division Court at Kincardine for 40 years. He declares himself a lover of flowers from his earliest recollection.

Much of the success of many of the horticultural societies of Ontario, and incidentally of *The Canadian Horticulturist*, is due to the untiring efforts of a few lovers of the beautiful in horticulture who, in spite of advancing years, inclement weather, lack of enthusiasm on the part of the general public (and sometimes on the part of their own directors), refuse to be discouraged, and as a result of whose effort their societies do splendid work each year. One of these enthusiasts is Mr. Joseph Barker, the secretary of the Kincardine Horticultural Society. Last spring *The Horticulturist* received a letter from Mr. Barker in which he stated that although 81 years of age he was tramping through the snow securing members for his society and

the lectures is free and competitions are open to citizens. The exhibition has resulted in the most good, but all combined have helped to maintain a good, strong society."

Mr. R. Walter Brooks, secretary of Brantford society, says: "Our society, had it continued only the old annual exhibition for fruit, flowers and vegetables, would have ended in complete failure. This year we had a new departure. In the first place we gave our members *The Canadian Horticulturist*, which I think is almost a necessity. Secondly, we distributed to the school children about 6,000 packages of seeds, consisting of asters, verbenas, phlox, scabiosa and salpiglossis. Thirdly, we had a very successful exhibition. Mr. Hunt, of the O. A. C., Guelph, said it was the most beautiful lot of asters he ever saw.

"There were about 500 entries, for which we gave 119 prizes in plants, consisting of araucarias, palms, ficus and ferns. Each exhibitor also received a hyacinth bulb. Everything in regard to the exhibition was free and there was great enthusiasm among parents and children. It is great encouragement for us as we have had a hard pull to get members this year, but I have great promise for next year. People want to know how so much can be done for nothing. The only answer is, avoid unnecessary expense and purchase plants for prizes in the best market."