

of the members are amateurs, and their gardening efforts are confined to the beautifying of home surroundings. But they are nothing if not enthusiastic, and when this display was proposed about a month ago, everyone concerned agreed to do all they could to make it a success in the way of contributions. The result was an almost overwhelming assortment of flowers and plants, in quantity sufficient to fill all the tables provided, fill all the corners available, bank up the stage, and then overflow into the old hall.

The greater portion of this display was made by amateurs, and to them much credit is due. The finishing touches and crowning features were provided by the professional florists, whose display was worthy of any metropolitan centre. The display tables, covered with white paper and draped with muslin and green foliage, formed a V from the stage, with a centre row of floor plants, and side tables along the walls. This arrangement proved very effective. Thain's orchestra was on the stage, behind a bank of flowers and plants which included, as one lady fittingly put it last evening, "most everything lovely."

Of the professional displays, the banking effect on the centre floor by Capt. Mann is worthy of note. This is the latest decorative effect, and it certainly makes the best and most of the plants used. Mr. Mann also shows a pretty supper table design. Mr. Jas. Gilchrist shows a fine collection of ferns as his principal feature, making special showing of the new Sprengrie fern: the latest decorative green. This is handsomely contained in a number of rustic hanging baskets in the windows, and gave a beautiful drooping effect. Mr. Gilchrist also shows some beautiful floral designs. Next his display is a table of rare cannas sent from Toronto by Mr. Archibald Gilchrist. The display was very favorably commented on.

Of the many meritorious amateur exhibits it would be invidious to make distinction. They

were so numerous, and withal so creditable, that it would be difficult indeed to make an order of merit. Immediately on entering the building one was bound to exclaim in admiration at the sight of the big rubber plant, fully twelve feet in height, the property of Mr. J. W. Lyon. This gentleman showed a large assortment of beautiful things. One of the happiest men in the place, happy because he loves the flowers, was Mr. Thos. Davies, Guelph's veteran amateur florist, who has many lovely plants, the showing of which he is justly proud.

Some of the special features were: "The aster table," as fine a collection as one could wish to see; "the yellow table," a bewildering phalanx of golden glow, dwarf sunflowers and coreopsis, eloquent of autumn, and the fine display of flowers and foliage begonias. Then one might mention the queen white nicotine flowers, blooming only at night; the generous bunches of sweet peas, redolent with fragrance; the fuchsias, the every day geraniums, the fig trees, the pousettia, and the Japanese lilies, all of them lovely, while towering high over all rises the big "dracena indivisia," the very lord of palms, with the "sea maze" and "fish-tail" palms to keep it company. One scarce need think of other decoration, but in this regard the good taste shown by the management is commendable. Flags give a patriotic touch, and evergreens complete the simple embellishment to the plants themselves, and surely no more is necessary.

The exhibition is free, and the exhibits and work contributed by the members has been entirely voluntary. As an educative feature, this display must be commended, and everyone, whether interested in flowers or no, should pay a visit to the City Hall this afternoon or evening, and thus encourage the management in their worthy efforts.—*Guelph Daily Mercury*.

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