

FLOWER SHOW AT CLOPTON.

A cottagers' flower show, on a small scale, was held in the Rectory grounds, on Wednesday last. It consisted principally of wild flowers, which abound in the neighbourhood. Signs of great activity were visible early in the morning. Bunting were flying from the church tower, and all the Rectory grounds were prettily decorated with a very large number of flags and large Chinese lanterns, which were lit up at night, and looked very picturesque.

The show was held in the Mission Room, and was arranged according to the five classes of exhibitors.

The ladies who kindly undertook to be judges were:—Mrs. Round-Turner (Grundisburgh), Mrs. Turner (Grundisburgh Rectory), and Mrs. Wilkinson (Otley Rectory).

The show opened at three o'clock, and by that time the company began to arrive. Being haysel time, the cottagers did not go till the evening, when the grounds were filled with several hundreds of people.

The drum and fife band from Woodbridge enlivened the company by a good selection of music, and great credit is due to them for the excellent manner in which they performed their duties.

There was a balloon ascent in the afternoon, and again in the evening, when fireworks were exhibited, much to the enjoyment of the villagers.

In the evening the Rev. S. Hooke distributed the prizes, but before doing so he said it was his intention, if spared, to have a show next year on a much larger scale, but, in consequence of the bazaar to be held next week he had not more time to spare. He desired to promote a greater interest in cottage gardening, as he felt sure the saying was a true one, "That a well-kept garden is an index to a happy home." He wished more flowers were grown, as a little patch in front of the cottage could well be spared, and if planted with a few pretty flowers would much improve the village and the homestead as well. The wild flowers shown, he said, were very beautiful, and the children had shown great taste in their arrangement. After a few further encouraging words he then distributed the prizes to the following children:—

Best collection of wild flowers (for children under 10 years), Jessie Wood; 2nd, Chas. Dunnett; 3rd, Archie Dowsing; 4th, Newland Dowsing. Best collection of wild flowers (for children under 14 years), Jane Dunnett; 2nd, Rosa Crapnell; 3rd, David Crapnell; 4th, Alice Wood. Best collection of wild flowers (for persons under 20 years), Mrs. Last; 2nd, Jane Dunnett. Best cottager's bouquet of garden flowers, Mrs. John Wood; 2nd, Mrs. Jas. Lankester; 3rd, Mrs. Wm. Dunnett; 4th, Mrs. Ann Lankester.

Among the ladies who kindly contributed flowers to make up the show were Mrs. Fraser, Grundisburgh Hall, who sent some beautiful ferns and coleus; Mr. Round-Turner, Mrs. Steel, and Miss Steel.

After the distribution he thanked the ladies for their great kindness in judging the flowers, and said he believed their verdict gave universal satisfaction.

All the people seemed to enjoy the evening very much, and strolled about the gardens, though they are pretty familiar by this time with them, as the Rector throws them open every Sunday evening after the service at church, and before they depart a hymn or two is sung on the lawn, and thus is afforded a happy intercourse between pastor and people.

This beginning augurs well for the future, and it is hoped there will be many similar shows, though we may expect to see them on a much larger scale.