**Mr. Moran’s Nursery 1886**

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Among the Nurseries.

[By our Travelling Reporter.]

No. 1

Just before reaching that part of the Hornsby-road where the Waratah-Homebush railway crosses, the small but compact nursery of Mr. G. B. Moran, known as the “Waratah Nursery,” is encountered, and a short pause for inspection will be well repaid. Mr. Moran, though now designated a professional, has only opened his “frames” and flower-beds to the public since February in last year. Previous to that time he was gardener to Major Dunn, nearby, and though his efforts have hardly on the whole, reached maturity, yet the excellent condition of his nursery, and the fame he has already secured for himself as a prize-winner at shows, together with the unquestionable advantages derived from the suitable climate for the prosecution of experiments in floriculture and horticulture, lead, one is to believe that Mr. Moran has not missed his mark in the world, and that he will find his calling a lucrative one if he only continues to maintain the high standard of excellence at present so conspicuous. Almost every species of plants, shrubs, and flowers have found a place in his unique catalogue, and though in some cases the number of specimens is small, yet that is atoned for by reason of their A.1 quality.

In flowering plants his begonias and dahlias stand out very prominently, the latter especially both in single and double varieties. In begonias there is a large display of tube-root, fibre-rooted and foliage plants. The tube-root specimens include the gesenaria, gloxinia insignia, and many other choice-coloured varieties. The foliage begonias have hardly reached so high a standard as the flowering ones, for his fibre-rooted collection could hardly be surpassed, and include amongst twenty other varieties the Sutherlandii (orange), Floribunda, Fuchsioides (carmine), Hendersonii (crimson), Hydrocotyllipolia (pink), Ingramii (flesh coloured) and the Weltomensis Alba and Roses. His camellias make a big show in buds, and give prospect of some fine blooms, while the Achimenes, Waratah and Native rose are among the most important items in the nursery. Ferns have been made a specialty of by Mr. Moran, and include many rare kinds. The Neotofleris Nidus, or bird’s-nest fern, lycopodiums, bygodium scandens, or climbing fern, and the Microlepia hirta cristata, or crested fern, look exceedingly healthy and luxuriant, while the adiantum, asplenium, danallia novae Zealandia, pteris, tree ferns, palms, cycads, pines, junipers, cypruses, etc., are multifarious. Rhododendrons are only fairly represented, and cannot be said to shine, though perhaps the dry weather prevents anything startling being achieved in this direction. Chrysanthemums prove a special feature, and are largely represented, the most notable being the Chinese, Japanese and dwarfs. Of the Chinese or large flowering kinds, the Blonde Beauty (white-tipped rose), Alfonso (crimson-tipped gold), Golden John Salter (golden yellow), Guernsey Nugget (primrose yellow), and Refulgens (rich purple maroon) are the most conspicuous; while the Negro (maroon), Purpureum Album (purple-mottled white), Red-Dragon (chestnut red-tipped gold), and the Daimia [Damiana], with a pale pink blossom fading into a rosy lilac, are deserving of mention from the Japanese category. Dwarfs include brilliant crimson maroon, Canary Bird, Cassandra, and the “Little Gem.” Pelargoniums, regala, pansies, and phloxes are coming on in great variety, while cineraria, calceolarias and primulas are looking healthy and promising. Roses and carnations are in full bloom, and present a charming appearance on account of the variety of colours. The only two other specialties are specimens of the Blue Marguerite and the rose-coloured Pampas Grass, either of which appear to be novel in this district.

On the whole Mr. Moran’s collection is a highly creditable one. His flower borders are tastefully laid out, and the part of the nursery which is covered in from the direct rays of the sun by an awning is embellished with a number of pendants containing choice ferns and mosses, presenting on the whole a pleasing appearance, and no one can possibly visit his establishment without feeling thoroughly repaid for the trouble.