

ceiving the greatest number of votes; except that a minimum of seven votes is required. The list of eligible varieties is printed on the ballot each year.

The Morgan Award

The Morgan Award, also ranks equal to the Award of Merit. It is given each year to the eligible Siberica variety receiving the greatest number of votes; but with a minimum requirement of seven votes. This award was instituted in 1951, and named in honor of Mr. H. Cleveland Morgan, a Canadian hybridizer who did outstanding work with the Siberica species and their hybrids. To be eligible for this award, a variety must have received H.M. A list of the eligible varieties is printed on the ballot each year.

The Eric Nies Award

Rules and regulations for this award are to be announced at a later date by the Awards Committee.

Thus, it will be seen that the "Ladder of Success" in irisdom looks something like this:

THE DYKES MEMORIAL MEDAL

The Award of Merit (tall bearded)

The Mary Swords Debaillon Award (Louisiana)

The Caparne Award (dwarf bearded)

The Morgan Award (Siberica)

The Eric Nies Award (Spuria)

Honorable Mention

High Commendation

These comprise the Official Awards of the Society. There is one other competition upon which the Garden Judges vote—the annual Popularity Symposium. Mention of the Symposia conducted in the early years of the Society will be found elsewhere in these pages, and the history is one of bitter differences of opinion.

The future will probably be no different from the past—but the experience of 33 years shows that the membership of the Society does feel that some sort of Symposium of Opinion is valued above the criticism each one brings forth. Much of the criticism arises from a misunderstanding of definition. Many persons think the Symposium lists the "100 Best" irises of the year, whereas it truly is a list of the "100 Favorite" irises of the year—which is something quite different. Until 1952 the voting on the Symposium was done entirely by the Accredited Garden Judges, but beginning then the entire membership was invited to participate. Ballots were cast by 1,112 members, approximately 25% of the total. The tabulation of results was published in Bulletin No. 128, January 1953. A comparison of this tabulation with the 1951 tabulation, in which only the Accredited Garden Judges participated, will