

On the basis of his analysis Dr. Newman predicted that in New Zealand work in plant physiology, anatomy and mycology would probably increase proportionally at the expense of ecological and taxonomic studies.

A feature of New Zealand botany was the small prominence given to the subject by the University, the first full Chair of Botany being filled only in 1946.

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PROTECTION OF A RARE SPECIES.

The Christchurch Domains Board Bulletin No. 2 was issued by the Botanic Gardens Christchurch in August last. Written by W.B. Brockie it deals with Ranunculus pauciflorus, a species known only from an area of under four acres at Castle Hill where in 1940 a total of about 75 plants could be counted. It is recorded that the area containing the Ranunculus is to be declared a reserve under the Scenery Preservation Act, and will be enclosed by a fence to keep out stock which have threatened to exterminate this rare species.

Mr. Brockie tells too of a small experimental nursery plot that he enclosed at Castle Hill in 1940, and of the growth within it of plants both undisturbed and transplanted, and of seedlings. Fine photographs show the limestone basin that is the home of R. pauciflorus, a plant in its natural habitat, one in the Christchurch Botanic Gardens, and a 20 year old one grown in the homestead garden at Castle Hill.

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MEMBERS' EVENING 16.12.46.

Many members contributed exhibits to the December meeting. The President and Mrs. Newman had brought along a series of Australian plants, and some New Zealand relatives for comparison.

A comparative set of Pittosporum twigs had been prepared and mounted by Mr. R. Green, a country member. They were displayed on his behalf by Dr. Cone, who had herself brought some fine pen and ink drawings as a sample of what she has done towards a popular fern book to be published shortly.

Mr. Morris Jones, Mr. Boddie and Mr. Duncan contributed from their gardens a wealth of fresh specimens including Scutellaria novae-zealandiae, the hybrid Senecio Alfred Atkinson, Edwardsia longicarinata, hybrids between Aristotelia fruticosa and A. racemosa, and a particularly fine series of flowering manukas.

Mrs. Samson had made three posies; a patriotic one of red manuka, white renga lily and purple-blue Hobe speciosa; a Hobe one of H. matthewsii, H. diosmaefolia, and red H. speciosa; and perhaps the most attractive, a third of Acaena novae-zealandiae var. pallida with large heads and bright red spines, and the fluffy grass Doyouxia billardieri.

Miss Moore showed some excellent herbarium specimens made by children of eleven and fourteen years, pupils of the Warkworth District High School; also specimens, sent by Mr. Michie from Kaitaia, of a 'giant' Pomaderris phyllocafolia, of which he has found a patch of several thousand plants - a novelty awaiting formal record.

Miss Hodgson had brought from Wallaceville hill a series of orchids of the genus Thelymitra, including not only the common and well-known T. longifolia var. alba and the less familiar T. pauciflora but also T. caesia, known hitherto only from near Auckland and T. decora previously recorded from nowhere south of the Volcanic Plateau. Miss Hodgson is to be congratulated on these extensions of records and also to be thanked for her observation that Pterostylis barbata was abundant on Wallaceville hill this spring.

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