Recent Publications

A list of books and bulletins that have come to the
notice of the editor, concerning the plants and vege-
tation of New Zealand.   Mention of a publication
does not necessarily imply a recommendation.

Tutira: The Story of a New Zealand Sheep Station, by H. Guthrie-
Smith, 3rd ed.   William Blackwood and Sons, Ltd.   42/-.

The Story of the Kauri, by A. H. Reed.   (440 pp.) A. H. and A. W.
Reed, Wellington.   47/6.

The Kauri, by A. H. Reed.   (48 pp.).   A. H. and A. W. Reed,
Wellington.   3/6.

The Botany of Christchurch, by Professor Arnold Wall.   Revised.
A. H. and A. W. Reed, Wellington.   6/-.

*An Ecological Study of Tussock Grassland, Hunter Hills, South
Canterbury*, by A. P. Barker.   D.S.I.R. Bulletin No. 107.   6/-.

New Zealand Coastal Plants, by Lucy B. Moore, with illustrations by
Nancy M. Adams; Post Primary School Bulletin, Vol. 7, No. 7.

Corybas Saprophyticus

J. B. Irwin

Corybas saprophyticus has been found in flower (October 1953) by
Mr. E. E. Ensor of Reefton, in bush on the lower slopes of the
Victoria Range near Ro okohu. This is the only record of flowering
plants since Mr. Hatch found the solitary flower near Wellsford, from
which the species was described. (See Bull., Well. Bot. Soc., No. 23).
The plants were found quite by chance; while lunching in the bush
Mr. Ensor idly brushed aside the deep leaf-mould and in doing so
exposed the flowers.

As the flower is borne beneath the leaf-mould the plant is not
noticeable until the seed-head is raised well clear of the surface by
the elongation of the peduncle after fertilization. It could then pass
for any other species of *Corybas* from which the leaf had already
withered. Doubtless this orchid will be found to have a much wider
distribution if botanists keep an eye open for these apparently leafless
seed-heads.

The drawings of the flower on the opposite page are from a fresh
specimen, one of a number sent to the Dominion Museum by Mr.
Ensor. It is now preserved in the herbarium of the Botany Division,
Latimer Square, Christchurch.