

by a fungus looking like a bird's egg which, when broken, revealed long scarlet arms. After seeing a *Myosotis* in the scree and *Celmisia viscosa* about half way up the Sugar Loaf we were driven down by a hailstorm, — fortunately, for we encountered two Christchurch members of the Society who returned to the Pass with us.

Next day they brought us back to Christchurch, a day of sun, snowcapped mountains and botanising by the way. Near Broken River we saw the pink fruit of *Pernettya nana*, and along the shore of Lake Lyndon found *Parahebe canescens* and a small-leaved plant which later proved to be an unnamed species of *Galium*.

I. M. MORICE

Book Review

New Zealand Flowering Plants, by Marguerite Johnson (with illustrations by Elizabeth Johnson). Caxton Press, Christchurch. 196 pp. Price \$1.50.

New Zealand Flowering Plants is a pleasant little book at a reasonable price. It treats the N.Z. flora in a brief manner, giving interesting information about many families, and includes black and white drawings of numerous species. The artist has captured the characteristic features of the plants and they are portrayed in an artistic, but accurate, manner.

Some features of the book are unorthodox. The author is obviously interested in the early history of native plants. It is this aspect that dominates the introduction and determines the unusual sequence of presentation of families (with the monocotyledons in the middle of the dicotyledons), but this emphasis may lead some readers to expect more mention of past history in the text. Not all generic and specific names are in italics, and there are specific names and other words given unwarranted capitals. Unfortunately, too, quite a number of spelling mistakes have slipped past the proof-readers.

An attempt has been made to overcome the confusion caused by name changes by following the plant names used in Allan's *Flora* and Cheeseman's *Manual* (for monocotyledons). However we see hard beech referred to as "*N. truncata* (var. *colensoi*); "Palmaceae"; and "*Rubus australis*" where the plant depicted is probably *R. cissoides*.

Congratulations to the author for breaking with tradition and choosing for the cover picture a colourful native plant which is not widely known.

A. E. ESLER