

THINK AGAIN!

Mr. Millener's moving appeal for seeds ancient and modern appears to have fallen on stony ground--not to say solid rock! Not one solitary seed has Mr. Millener acquired. Under these circumstances, it seems probable, members imagine that Mr. Millener is seeking for something elaborate, such as, large quantities of beautifully mounted specimens, or series of seeds in great quantity or variety. Actually all Mr. Millener requires is native seeds, (preferably but not necessarily old), with date of collection affixed. So think again! Perhaps you know of some old, battered herbarium stowed away in some odd corner. Even if it yields merely one or two fruiting specimens, Mr. Millener will accept them gratefully. Mr. Millener has an earnest desire to germinate native plants--but even his enthusiasm finds difficulty in doing so without seeds!

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GOODBYE!

It is with deep regret that we find we must say farewell to our good friend Professor Arnold Wall. From the time of its inception, Professor Wall has been an active member of our Society and a most generous contributor to all our activities. He has lectured to us and led our excursions, while his extensive Botanical knowledge has been ever at the service of individual members. In addition, he has written a Bulletin "Those Troublesome Names", and is now at work on a much needed Bulletin on the Sedges. Members will also remember his recently published work in collaboration with Dr. H. H. Allan "The Botanical Names of the Flora of New Zealand", where his knowledge of philology and botany so instructively blended. Professor Wall's contributions to New Zealand Botany have been considerable.

In keeping with the traditional enthusiasm of New Zealand Botanists for field work, Professor Wall has made arduous collecting excursions particularly on the Southern Alps, where, to quote his own beautiful words:

"Mine the long day of Alpen delights poured out without grudging,
Steep black crags with their mantles of fern and their great
white daisies,

Glossy and dark olearias flooded with creamy blossoms--
Long reaches of tussock all gold in the afternoon sunlight--"

He has written a popular work, "The Flora of the Mt. Cook District", but most of his observations and discoveries have been pub-

lished in the Transactions of the N.Z. Institute. After settling in Auckland, he collaborated with Lucy Cranwell in that admirable little handbook "The Botany of Auckland".

Professor Wall has many interests and his services to the study of both the spoken and written work have been noteworthy, while his poems, so varied both in theme and in rhythm, have made their own distinctive contribution to our New Zealand literature

Professor Wall is retiring to Christchurch where he intends to settle at Sumner.

Our heartfelt wishes go with him! May his retirement be "lovely and pleasant" and may his garden (and who can imagine our Professor without one?) be always lovely with flowers and beloved of singing birds.

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EGMONT.

Mr. & Mrs. Millener have gladdened the editorial heart by forwarding a most attractive and instructive account of a recent trip to Egmont early in December. The article is somewhat longer than as usual in the Newsletter, but the Editor, on reflection, decided it would be undesirable to divide it since it would be so much more useful to members if printed all under one cover.

"Mt. Egmont and Dawson Falls in particular, should be the Mecca of any member of the Botanical Society who has not yet been fortunate enough to visit the mountain. Mt. Egmont offers the most perfect example in N.Z. of an altitudinal zonation of vegetation. The belts, controlled primarily by temperature, are often remarkably sharply separated from one another. Within a square mile may be seen a dozen distinct and very interesting plant communities.

At the lowest levels there is luxuriant sub-tropical forest dominated by Rimu (Dacrydium cupressinum), Rata (Metrosideros robusta) and Kamahi (Weinmannia racemosa). The rich soil is often very moist, and every rotting log, every stone, even the ground itself may be covered with a green mantle of mosses and liverworts. The shining fronds of Asplenium bulbiferum and the giant deep reddish-green tufts of Blechnum discolor are in places waist-high. The trunks of the trees are invested with delicate, translucent filmy ferns. Perching ferns, orchids and Astelias are common. From the green cover of