

QUARTERLY NEWS LETTER

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AUCKLAND BOTANICAL SOCIETY

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The Annual Meeting of the Auckland Botanical Society was held in the Botany Lecture Theatre, Auckland University College, on April 26th at 8 p.m.

After the Report and Balance Sheet had been confirmed, the election of officers took place. On the retirement of Dr. Godley, Mr. L.H. Millener was elected President for the ensuing year. We are very glad to take this opportunity of welcoming Mr. Millener back among us again after his two years' research work at Cambridge and feel sure that the Society will make further progress under his capable leadership. The Secretaryship once more descended on the long-suffering shoulders of Mrs. P. Hynes. It seems unfortunate that a fellow creature should be penalised for conscientiousness and competence as Mrs. Hynes has been. But because she has been so faithful in her duties, although for three or four years now she has pleaded to be released from them, the Society persists in paying her the two-edged compliment of re-electing her. Surely in a Society of the size of our own there is someone who would be prepared to take on this onerous but very worth while duty?

Mr. L.W. Butler was again elected Treasurer to the great satisfaction of all.

As a result of the election to the committee we have much pleasure in welcoming among us the following new members: Mrs. T. Wood, Mrs. J. Prickett and Mr. L. Turnbull.

Following the conclusion of business the Society was delighted by an exhibition of beautiful coloured pictures - both moving and "stills" taken by Mr. Millener. Mr. Millener's prowess as a photographer is well known to members, and the beautiful medium of colour photography gives him full scope for

his skill.

His pictures dealt briefly with changing seasons and the English countryside. Many were taken in the vicinity of lovely Trinity Bridge, Cambridge, while his delightful moving pictures of falling autumn leaves and wild flowers in the English corn fields were a joy to all. At the conclusion a hearty vote of thanks was carried and members were heard murmuring that they hoped further pictures were in store for future occasions.

* * *

THOSE SUBSCRIPTIONS !

Following the reading of the Balance Sheet, the Treasurer drew attention to our somewhat precarious financial position. The plain fact is that for several years past the Society has been living beyond its means, and has only been able to "break even" because of the generosity of private members. Last year we reduced our deficit by making a small charge for supper, nevertheless we have not quite caught up with our somewhat restricted income.

Our expenses are heavy as they include:

1. Expenses of sending out notices etc.
2. A Quarterly News Letter.
3. Tea for our picnics (and tea has gone up!)
4. Payment to caretaker for making coffee etc., and cost of hire of urn.

These expenses take a great deal of financing out of a subscription of 5/- for town and 2/6 for country members - in fact to put it bluntly it can't be done on present membership.

Under these circumstances, it was proposed at the Annual Meeting that the Subscription be increased. The motion was eventually lost after considerable debate.

Those supporting the increase maintained:

1. In view of the increase in prices since the formation of the Society, an increase in subscriptions was only reasonable.
2. Many other Societies have increased their subscriptions.
3. The Society is not paying its way, and it is unfair that debts incurred by the Society as a whole should be put right by one or two generous members.