

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Welcome home to Dr. L.H. Millener. We are very glad to have him once more with us and wish him every success in the completion of his research.

We are indeed sorry we had no opportunity of meeting Lucy Cranwell Smith during her brief visit to Auckland in October. Mrs. Smith came over on account of her mother's illness. This and the shortness of her stay prevented her making the contacts she would have liked. She tells me however, that she expects to be visiting Auckland again fairly soon so we shall all look forward to seeing her then.

We are glad to have Dr. Rattenbury with us again, after his brief trip to America where he attended two important conferences. We hope to hear more of these anon.

Members will be interested to know that our Secretary, Ruth Coyle, together with Dennis Knight Turner, is having an exhibition of paintings of caves at the Auckland Art Gallery in January. Mr. Theo Schoon will also be showing some of his paintings of rock drawing in New Zealand caves. Arthur Coyle, also a member of our Committee will be exhibiting some of his photographic studies of caves in the City Library Building.

We would like to notify members that our latest Bulletin "Finding Plant Names" is now available from the Secretary. For some time now the editor has felt that the amateur botanist is under a very heavy handicap when trying to "run a plant down" in a botanical textbook owing to the difficulty of coping with technical terms. One encounters term after term to be looked up and no sooner has one been looked up than another and even worse one will appear over the horizon till the poor investigator is left both discouraged and confused. Moreover definitions themselves are not always easy to follow without diagrams. It seems then that what is needed is an illustrated glossary, small in compass with simple clearly labelled diagrams, that the enquirer can have constantly before him while studying plant descriptions, or slip into a pack to refer to when some discussion on identification is in progress in the field. The editor has done her best with

the letter press and Kathleen Wood has provided four pages of clear simple line drawings of precise elegance.

We can only express the hope that our little effort will fulfil the purpose for which it is intended.

We may add that this is our first venture with a printed not a cyclostyled bulletin. We felt that printing would be the more suitable medium in view of the hard wear that (we hope) the glossary will have. The production of this work by Mr. Gerald T. Lee leaves nothing to be desired.

Price

Members : One shilling (plus postage)

Non-members: One shilling and sixpence (plus postage).

It is with deep regret that we record the tragic passing of Mr. David Knowlton. Members will have learned of his terrible accident on the cliffs of Little Barrier Island. Mr. Knowlton was a member of our Society for a number of years. He carried out a fine piece of research for his master's degree on that most difficult fern genus, the genus Asplenium, and as a result of the excellence of his work, he was awarded a fellowship that would have enabled him to have continued his work for a further two years.

David Knowlton was not just a good student who was interested in his work. His subject of study was for him a burning enthusiasm. After his degree was awarded I had the pleasure of reading his thesis and was astonished at the extent and quality of his work. He had planned a long and exacting course of further research and his going will be a very real loss to New Zealand Pteridology.
