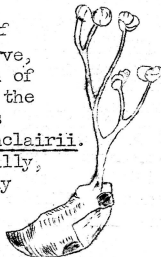


We record our regret at the passing of Mr. A. Suter. Mr. Suter has for many years been interested in Botany. He was actively associated with our Society and during the last year was a keen committee man. His cheerful presence will be missed from our meetings, and we take this opportunity of expressing appreciation of his past services and extending sympathy to his friends and relatives.

* * * *

Mr. Theilman reports the finding of Doodia caudata on Smythe's ridge behind Bethell's Lake. This fern is rare about Auckland. Miss E. L. Kibblewhite reported a patch from Piha, but it has not otherwise, as far as is known, been reported from the vicinity of the Coast.

Mr. Theilman also reports the discovery of a "vegetable caterpillar" at the University Reserve, Swanson. He has kindly supplied us with a sketch of this gruesome little find. The plant figured is the "Stag's horn" variety, and it used to be known as Cordyceps sinclairii but is now called Isaria sinclairii. A good deal of misunderstanding has, not unnaturally, arisen in regard to this bizarre fungus. Actually it is to be explained as follows: A microscopic spore falls upon the unfortunate caterpillar, or insect. This germinates penetrating inside the victim and forming masses of minute tubes, which eventually occupy the whole body. Having now exhausted the food possibilities of its host, the fungus sends up its fructification. From this innumerable spores are eventually wafted forth to bring about the undoing of further caterpillars or insects.



* * * * *

NOTES BY THE WAY

Not many of our plants and trees choose the winter months for their flowering season. One or two notables however, are to be found enlivening the bush. The kohe kohe (Dysoxylon spectabile) our only native member of the mahogany family, chooses June and