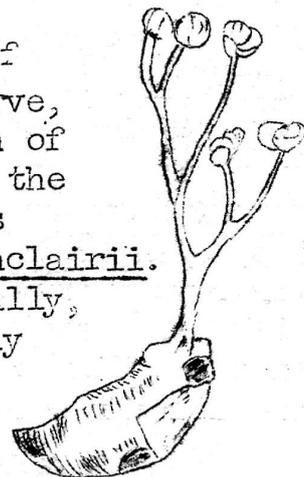


We record our regret at the passing of Mr. A. Suter. Mr. Suter has for many years been interested in Botany. He was actively associated with our Society and during the last year was a keen committee man. His cheerful presence will be missed from our meetings, and we take this opportunity of expressing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

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Mr. Theilman reports the finding of Doodia caudata on Smythe's ridge behind Bethell's Lake. This fern is rare about Auckland. Miss E. M. 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.



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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

July for the production of its large clusters of waxy white flowers, which spring out so oddly from main branches or even from the trunk.

Another interesting winter flowerer is the Black Maire (Eugenia maire), a member of the myrtle family and first cousin to the ratas, from which it differs in producing large bright crimson berries for its fruit instead of woody capsules. It likes swampy gullies and such-like places, and in these locations puts up quantities of twiggy "breathing" roots, which project above the ground at a sharp angle in a most extraordinary manner. As it flowers in June and July many people have never seen its white rata-like blossoms, so don't miss it this year!

One or two of our orchids also seem to like the cold. The small greenhood (Pterostylis trullifolia) is common in the bush in winter, and so is our diminutive native Acianthus sinclairii while two quaint little spider orchids Corysanthes choesemani and C. triloba, are also to be found. The Prasophyllum family - a family of N.Z. orchids which shares with the genus Caleana the distinction of having its flowers upside down - has a diminutive representative P. pumilum, that flowers on dry hills from April to June. Among, perching orchids, the delicious fragrance of Barina autumnalis may be found scenting the bush even in June.

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Many members will have the pleasantest recollections of the late Mr. Gore Adams. Perhaps all our members do not know that on his passing he left the Society of which he had been so ardent a supporter, a generous bequest.

After due thought and consideration, the Committee has decided to name this bequest "The Gore Adams Publication Fund" and draw on it for the purpose of publishing small Bulletins on subjects of especial interest to its members. These Bulletins will be cyclostyled and offered to the members at cost price. They will be written in a popular style and deal either with aspects of the local flora (native or introduced) or with matters of general Botanical interest. We hope to publish the following series of which we issue titles - some of which may be regarded as provisional:

"These Troublesome Names!" by Prof. Arnold Tall

"The Families of Plants" by Mr. L.S. Milliner, M.Sc.

"Some Hints on the Identification of Ferns" by Marguerite W. Crookes, M.L.

"The Case for a Botanic Garden" by Prof. T.L. Lancaster, M.Sc.
F.L.S.

"Maori Medicinal Plants" by Olga Adams, M.Sc.

"Some Local Fungi" by Joan Dingley, M.Sc.

These Bulletins will be reviewed in the News Letter as they appear. So far only the first has been actually printed.

"Those Troublesome Names!" by Prof. Arnold Wall, price 9
+ postage

Many would-be students of plants are repelled or rendered nervous by "those awful scientific names." They find it hard to remember a name that often sounds like so much gibberish. Prof. Wall has taken up this thorny topic with his customary enthusiasm. In his pamphlet space has permitted him to deal only with generic or family names, and he has necessarily had to confine himself to the consideration of local plants.

Prof. Wall needs no introduction to members of the Botanical Society, most of whom have (or certainly ought to have!) that admirable little Handbook on the Botany of Auckland, written by him in collaboration with Miss Lucy Cranwell.

As a student of words, both as regards their meaning and pronunciation, he commands the respect of all. In addition he is a noted field botanist. The Society is most fortunate in securing the good offices of so highly qualified an expert, for the initial publication of this series.

The Bulletins may be obtained from the Secretary, Mrs. Hynes at 9d. a copy (plus postage)

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NEWS OF MEMBERS

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. L.H. Millener on the birth of their son.

Congratulations to Miss Betty Molesworth on her appointment to the position of Museum Botanist. Miss Molesworth is well known to