

a few hardy souls repaired to Captain Keatley's gardens, in St. Luke's Rd. Mt. Albert. Among introduced plants, the Captain has some very interesting Australian species, while a well stocked rock garden, and an intriguing fernery give additional charm to his garden. Captain Keatley is a true plant lover, and during his seafaring days let pass no opportunity of botanizing in wild places. Some of his spoil is still to be seen in his garden.

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We have much pleasure in publishing the following communication from Mr. F. . Bartlett of "Bankside" Silverdale (Phone 7 M)

"It might be of interest to members to know that I have growing on my property the beautiful rare Moss Eucamptodon. Miss Lucy Moore collected it here and was most impressed by its great profusion. I would welcome any member at any time who wishes to see or collect. Also growing here is the primitive *Phylloglossum Drummondii*."

We take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Bartlett for his very kind invitation. Actually, the two plants he mentions are of very considerable botanical interest.

Phylloglossum drummondii belongs to a family containing only one species. It is found in New Zealand, Tasmania, Victoria and West Australia. It is alleged to be fairly common in swampy places, from the North Cape to the Thames Valley and Middle Waikato. But "common" does not mean "easily found"! Actually it is only one or two inches high, and as it has a predilection for swampy places, it is easily overlooked. Its small leaves are narrow and grasslike and grow in a small tuft. It produces each season a tiny cone, which grows on a stout stalk two or three times as long as the leaves. The cone has ripened and shed its spores by about the end of September. After that the plant dies down for the summer and appears above ground again about the following July. Throughout the summer and autumn months it is represented only by a subterranean tuber, one or occasionally two of these being produced each year. The spores when shed in suitable situations produce small bodies known as prothalli on which the reproductive bodies are borne.

For many years this queer little plant was a puzzle to

Botanists. It was obviously very closely allied to the Lycopods (club mosses) and earlier investigators concluded they had found an archaic form of lycopod, a primitive type that had, so to speak, lingered on in a state of arrested development. Recent research, however, has shown that its apparent simplicity is, on the contrary, the result of specialisation and adaptation to the tuberous perennial habit.

Mr. Bartlett's other treasure, the moss Eucamptodon, is remarkable in that it has never yet been discovered in a fertile condition. It is a large moss, and though fairly widely spread it is somewhat local. In the vicinity of Auckland it usually occurs on clay soil in scrubland.

A correspondent draws my attention to a very interesting article by J.L. Harrison-Smith recently published in the N.Z. Journal of Forestry. While stationed in the Waipoua kauri forest he climbed various large kauri trees and investigated the plants found growing thereon. He states "as many as 36 species (flowering plants and ferns) were found on one tree. Altogether a total of 53 species belonging to 37 genera were numbered." He also tells us "it is quite easy to spend a couple of hours 'wandering about' in the head of a large kauri." Space forbids further quotation. It is hoped that members will consult the original article.

The same correspondent, a keen collector, sends us the following observations:

"Regarding the note in the first number of the News letter as regards *Asplenium hookerianum* being found at Piha, this little fern is fairly plentiful round the lake at Te Henga (Bethells) where I first saw it many years ago. This suggests that it may be found up and down the West Coast in situations where the soil is sufficiently sandy, and members of the Society may care to keep a look-out for it and report any other localities.

Would it be of interest that I collected *Doodia caudata* at Swanson. This is the first time that I have seen this fern so may have passed it on other occasions not knowing it. Cheeseman says local and often absent from large areas."

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