

On Saturday, September 15th, the Society held its second excursion to Mt. Eden. As our first excursion was described in No. 1 Volume 2 (December 1944) of the News Letter, members are referred to that account, and it is proposed here to discuss merely some of the species "crowded out" of our previous article.

Noticeable among the larger "weeds" was Solanum auriculatum (p. 196)* a small tree with unmistakable "potato" flowers and large white velvety leaves, which bear small stipule-like leaves in their axils, - the "ears" that give the plant its name. It hails from tropical Africa. Very different was the Dead Sea Apple (Solanum sodomaeum) (p. 200) a native of North Africa, with its stout prickles and stiff leaves, and large berries first mottled green and white and afterwards yellow. Much more inconspicuous was the Black Nightshade (Solanum nigrum) which is cosmopolitan in its distribution.

Below the road near the pines that run down to Clive Road, we noted the Australian Sheep Burr Acaena ovina (page 116) a somewhat decorative plant. It is much larger than our native bidi-bidis, and is reported to hybridize with Acaena sanguisorbae and A. microphylla. The latter two species, by the way, both occur on the mountain.

Two species of the large and difficult willow herb family (37 species) were noted, the little creeping Epilobium mummularifolium which we saw growing on the stone wall near Clive Road, and the much larger E. junceum with its erect stems up to 18" high.

We saw two attractive weeds of the Daisy family. The first the Thoroughwort, Eupatorium adenophorum (p. 148). This somewhat straggling herb, with its clusters of white flower heads, is a wanderer from Mexico. America is the headquarters of this large genus (250 species) though England has a representative in the Hemp Agrimony (Eupatorium cannabinum) so common by river sides and in moist places generally. Also attractive was the Cape Weed, Cryptostemma calendulaceae (p. 164) with yellow rays and purple disc. It is from South Africa, a country which has provided our gardens with so many colourful daisies. * H.H. Allan - The Naturalised Flora of N.Z.

The party was shown these and other interesting intruders under the capable and energetic guidance of Professor Wall the leader of the excursion.

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On Sunday, November 18th, the Society held a very successful

excursion to the Swanson University Reserve. The weather was delightful and about twenty people attended. The party was received at the University Hut by Mr. Millener who gave a short address describing the characteristics of the reserves and indicating the effect of clearing on the plant succession in the vicinity of the Hut. He drew attention to the fact that young trees were already pushing their way through the scrub, and a forest in the making was around us. He mentioned the interesting opportunities this forest regeneration offered for observation and experiment, and alluded to work already carried out by keen University students. Members were provided with lists enumerating the more important flowering plants and ferns found in the Reserve.

After lunch we set forth under the guidance of Mr. Millener and explored the Reserve. Later a party visited an excellent stand of toa toa (Phyllocladus glaucus) growing in the vicinity. This striking tree was described by Mr. Cheeseman as "quite the most handsome of the New Zealand Taxads". It is, however, very local in its distribution. Members have previously encountered it at Birkdale, and it has been recorded from Anawhata, but not many stands are to be found on the Waitakeres. Its presence gave an added interest to a very pleasant excursion.

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OBITUARY.

It is with very deep regret that we record the death of one of New Zealand's most distinguished research Botanists, the Rev. J.E. Holloway, D.Sc., F.N.Z.R.S.

Dr. Holloway was ordained priest in Christchurch in 1908 and from then on he occupied various ministerial positions in different parts of the country, Wanganui, Hokitika, East Oxford, Kaimar and Waimea, & Leeston. He attended St. John's Theological College in Auckland and was two years at Barnsley in England.

Always a keen field botanist, he doubtless in these varied localities took the opportunity of studying the botanical as well as the human situation in his parishes.

In 1924 he was appointed head of the Department of Botany in the University of Otago, and from then on teaching and research were his main occupations, though he still carried out duties connected with his calling, taking part in the Cathedral services and on occasions preaching.