

relevant information. The book takes the sting out of many an unwieldy scientific name. Further, not only do all generic and specific names receive adequate treatment, but Professor Wall has also added an extremely valuable introduction dealing with the general principles involved. Our gratitude to both authors!

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

This valuable little Bulletin reviewed in our previous number, is now available from the Secretary. (9d. plus postage)

Salt Marshes, by Betty Molesworth.

This little bulletin, handy for excursions by the sea shore is also available. (9d. plus postage)

#### NOTES BY THE WAY.

Even weeding has its compensations! The other day, when weeding about a pepper tree (Schinus molle) what should be encountered but a specimen of Psilotum triquetrum. The plant is growing close to the pepper tree, apparently gaining nourishment from the humus formed from its bark. Psilotum appears to be "all stem", as its leaves are scale-like and it possesses no true roots. The globular sporangia borne on the branched stem are bright yellow in colour. Altogether a distinctive plant! Cheeseman described it as "very rare" on the Auckland Isthmus, though it is quite common on Rangitoto Island. A few weeks previously, walking along the higher part of Empire Road, Epsom, the editor encountered it growing from a bank beneath a Tecoma hedge. It had apparently been in this unpromising situation for some years, since Miss Molesworth stated she had visited that particular plant some years before with Miss Cranwell. Miss Joan Dinghley also records it from Remuera. If any other members encounter this odd little survival from prehistoric times, it is hoped they will inform the editor.

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The genus Carmichaelia, one of the most curious of our endemic genera, has now been revised by Mr. George Simpson of Dunedin, in a paper, "A Revision of the genus Carmichaelia". Trans. Vol. 75, Pt. 2, Sept. 1945. This puzzling genus, confined to New Zealand, except for one species which is found in Lord Howe Island, belongs to the pea family (Leguminosae). It is remarkable in that, particularly in the

adult stage, it does not bear leaves, their functions being carried out by green and flattened branches. Mr. Cheeseman, in the Manual (1925) stressed the need for its revision. Mr. Simpson's work based on a long and careful study of all the important material provides what is wanted. He divides the group into 8 subgenera, and expands Mr. Cheeseman's 21 species into 44. In the sub-genera the pod characteristics are extremely important, "Pod characteristics mark definite stages in a procession linking the freely dehiscent with the indehiscent" (p.238) As regards the species, he remarks, "Compound species abound, and for the present it would be unwise to suppose the existence of any one simple species". On the subject of distribution he makes the interesting comment, "Notwithstanding previous recordings, the author is firmly of the opinion that no species crosses Cook Strait in either direction." It is hoped that this very able revision will receive the attention of members interested in the genus.

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For the convenience of members we publish Mrs. Lucy Cranwell Smith's present address. It is; C/- Mrs. Russell Wilson,  
2726 Johnstone Place,  
Cincinnati, OHIO.

Miss Betty Molesworth, Museum Botanist has kindly forwarded a further botanical revision, and also a very useful key to that interesting New Zealand Heath family, Gaultheria.

#### THE GENUS GAULTHERIA.

In 1935 Sir Arthur Hill, then Director of Kew, with Mr. Burt, published an account of the genera GAULTHERIA and PERNETTIA in Australia and New Zealand. This is in the Linnean Society Journal. Species of the two genera hybridise, as well as there being many hybrids between different species of GAULTHERIA, which makes identification difficult.

G. fagifolia (Manual, P.691) is a hybrid, and has been rejected. Gaultheria perplexa is now Pernettya macrostigma. It is hoped that the key below, which has been copied from this paper, will assist in identification.

#### GAULTHERIA.

Key to the New Zealand species of Gaultheria.

Flowers racemose.

Calyx dry and unaltered in fruit.

New Zealand.