
AUCKLAND BOTANICAL SOCIETY

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WELCOME!

The Auckland Botanical Society takes this opportunity of extending a most hearty welcome to Professor V.J. Chapman, recently appointed Professor of Botany at the Auckland University College.

Dr. Chapman is a man of very wide experience having taught and botanized in many different parts of the world. He received his academic training at Cambridge University becoming Doctor of Philosophy in 1935 and Master of Arts in 1936.

From 1932-1935 he taught at the University of Cambridge, and from 1935-36 he was Henry Fellow at Harvard University, during which time he took the opportunity of Botanizing in many parts of the States.

From 1936-37 he was again in England teaching and lecturing at Manchester University. Then from 1936-44 he was once more at Cambridge, this time as Drosier Research Fellow though during this period he also carried out teaching work, and from 1939 to the time of his present appointment he was University Demonstrator in Botany. But since 1937 he has been by no means all the time pursuing the even tenor of his way undisturbed at Cambridge. On the contrary, in 1939 he organised the Cambridge University Expedition to Jamaica, while the outbreak of war brought him further activities and responsibilities. In 1940 he organised a voluntary research party in connection with the Forestry Commission Fellings in East Anglia, being personally responsible for soil analysis and soil reports.

In 1942 he was called on by the Ministry of Supply to organise and conduct a survey of Marine Biological Resources. In 1943 he was made Production Manager at a group of Ministry of Supply Factories using algal material. From 1944 he acted as consulting Botanist to the Scottish Research Association, while in 1945 he was called on to act as Botanist attached to Supreme Headquarters of the South East Asia Command.

During all these years Dr. Chapman has published much research dealing more particularly with maritime Botany. His book "An Introduction to the Study of Algae" is to be found in the College Library, and is already familiar to some of our members. He has also published a large number of papers dealing with the salt marshes and marine algae of Nova Scotia, New England, and Jamaica and the British Isles. His researches include considerable work on the mangrove, Avicennia Nitida (closely allied to our local mangrove Avicennia officinalis). He has also kept a watchful eye on sand dunes!

His interests in the sea shore have not been purely theoretical and he has a book on "The Economic Uses of Seaweeds" now awaiting publication.

Auckland and its vicinity will provide Dr. Chapman with many salt marshes, dunes, and algal communities and we feel sure that before long he will have worked up a flourishing school of Maritime-Botany among us.

We sincerely hope that Dr. Chapman will find his new work and its opportunities to his liking, and that he will be very happy among us, and we take this opportunity of extending to him a very hearty welcome, and wishing him every possible success.

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LECTURES AND EXCURSIONS

On Wednesday, October 3rd, the Society listened to an inspiring address by our new Superintendent of Parks, Mr. J.A. MacPherson, on "The National Aspect of Horticulture."

Mr. MacPherson emphasised the number of contacts existing