

QUARTERLY NEWS LETTER

Vol. No. 3.

June, 1947

AUCKLAND BOTANICAL SOCIETY

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ASST. SECRETARY: Mr. Carnahan, 'Phone: 70-221.

LECTURES AND MEETINGS

The Annual Meeting of the Auckland Botanical Society was held at the Auckland University College on May 22nd. After the business was concluded a series of very beautiful slides were shown by Mr. Millener.

As regards the election of officers, mention must be made of the retirement of Mrs. Buddle from the position of treasurer. Mrs. Buddle is a foundation member of our Society. She worked first on the Social Committee, and then for a number of years she has held the troublesome position of Treasurer. We would like to take this opportunity of thanking Mrs. Buddle for her long and faithful service and sincerely hoping that though time will not permit her to take office, we shall still be able to welcome her at our meetings. We know her retirement will be made more pleasant by the knowledge that the mantle of treasurer has fallen upon the highly competent shoulders of Mr. Butler.

Another officer who demands our gratitude is our Secretary Mrs. Hynes. Mrs. Hynes wished this year to relinquish her office. As, however, everyone else in the Society appears to be allergic to secretarial responsibilities, Mrs. Hynes has again consented to shoulder the burden. We are sorry for Mrs. Hynes, but our regret is tempered by satisfaction at retaining the services of so energetic and efficient a secretary. To mitigate Mrs. Hynes' lot, we have provided her with an assistant secretary who will be able to take 'phone calls for her. Mr. Carnahan's 'phone number is 70-221.

(The contribution below was submitted by two very determined ladies who insisted on its publication - Ed.)

It was felt that this news letter could not go to press without a few lines of welcome to our newly elected president, Miss M.W. Crookes. As editress of these bulletins, and being very modest, it falls on two committee members to write a short appreciation of her work for the society. These quarterly news letters were introduced in 1943 as a means of keeping the country members in touch with the activities of the society. From the beginning Miss Crookes has had the thankless task of collecting news items from reluctant contributors, in fact, at first this often entailed the editress herself supplying all the material for the whole issue.

Perhaps few, except the committee members, fully appreciate the work Miss Crookes has put into the society, especially during the war years. As a lecturer she attracts large enthusiastic audiences, who always enjoy and appreciate her material, while on excursions her leadership greatly benefits the participants.

Miss Crookes graduated M.A. with double honours in Botany and English from Auckland University College, and is the author of that well known book "Plant Life in Maoriland". Her special interest has been first in New Zealand orchids, then in the ferns. On the former subject she has published many articles in New Zealand periodicals and, over the past three years, she has been engaged in making a complete revision of Dobbie's "Ferns of New Zealand" This has entailed an immense amount of work, as many revisions have had to be made to bring the New Zealand names into line with modern taxonomics of ferns. We hope that this book will be on sale shortly.

It is an honour to the Society to have Miss Crookes as president, and we hope that her year will be a pleasant and a successful one.

J.M. Dingley and
B.E.G. Molesworth

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