

Members will rejoice to hear of the signal honour that has been conferred on our foundation member, Miss Lucy Moore, when on 23rd May 1947, she was elected a Fellow of the N.Z. Royal Society. Miss Moore has a knowledge of Botany that is many sided, though of recent years she has concentrated more especially on seaweeds. True to the traditions of N.Z. botany, she has always been an ardent field worker, and has combined work in the laboratory and herbarium with extensive field studies. During her earlier period a good deal of work was done in association with Miss Lucy Cranwell, the two forming that highly efficient combination known to botanists as "the two Lucies". Always keenly interested in seaweeds, many and perilous were the collecting excursions held by the two on the wild west coast. After her appointment to the Botanical Section of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, her algological knowledge caused the Government to select her to carry out important investigations in regard to agar, and other valuable seaweeds. Hence we have "The Economic Importance of Seaweeds" (1941) Bull. 85 (N.Z. Journal of Sci. and Tech.); "The Genus Pterocladia in New Zealand" (Trans. N.Z.I. 74 (1945)); "Seaweed as a Source of Potash in New Zealand" (N.Z. Journal of Sci. and Tech. 21 (1940) and other valuable papers. Zoologist as well as botanist (she was attached to the Zoology Department of the Auckland University College for eight years) she was keenly interested in the zoological side of shore life, thus we have papers on "Intertidal Communities of the Poor Knights Island" Trans N.Z.I. (1938) (in association with Miss Cranwell) and "Some Intertidal Sessile Barnacles of N.Z.". Trans. N.Z.I. (1944). She also published work on Hard Fern Infestation, and an important paper on the structure and life history of that extraordinary root parasite Dactylanthus taylori.

At the moment she is engaged in extensive work on the Sphacelariaceae, in addition to work on the red seaweeds, while her economic work is, of course, always with her.

A good lecturer and an inspiring teacher, Miss Moore has been ever ready to put her knowledge at the service of those who sought it. Her unselfishness, her generosity and her loyalty, no less than the distinction of her intellectual gifts, will cause her latest honour to be regarded with deep satisfaction by a wide circle of admirers.

We are greatly indebted to Miss Joan Dingley for forwarding an account of the Science Congress 1947 - Ed.

"The Royal Society of New Zealand held its 6th Science Congress in Wellington from May 20th - 23rd. It was attended by over 500 scientists from all over New Zealand and papers were read in each of the eleven sections of pure and applied science. The sectional meetings were held in the lecture rooms of Victoria College while the combined sessions were held in the Lecture hall of the Dominion Museum.

The following are a few notes made during the session which might be of some interest to the readers of the News Letter. Throughout the Botany and Zoology section papers were read on the effect of animals on the Vegetation of New Zealand. Mr. V.D. Zotov in the Botany section dealt with the opossum and deer problem in the Tararuas. In the Zoology section Dr. Wodzickt discussed the economies of the rabbit problem while Mr. E.G. Turbott pointed out the modification by goats of the vegetation of the Great Island, Three Kings.

The Zoology Section concluded its session with a discussion on Taxonomic Research in New Zealand. Dr. J.T. Salmon opened with a general review and then the subject was thrown open for general discussion. Suggestions on such subjects as lack of New Zealand type material and interchange of literature among the scientific bodies within New Zealand were made, while it was recommended that rather than sending material overseas for identification, taxonomic work within New Zealand itself should be encouraged.

In the Botany Section, Dr. Oliver opened proceedings with an address on Botany in Post War New Zealand. He concluded his address by stressing the need of a new Flora for New Zealand. Mr. Martin proposed a motion that was carried by the members of the section, that the congress should approach the government regarding the preparation and publication of a new Flora. This Flora Mr. Martin stated, should not only contain the description of Flowering plants and Ferns, but the cryptogams should be listed and described. In the discussion following the paper "T.F. Cheeseman and the Making of a great herbarium" by Miss B.E.G. Molesworth, Dr. H.H. Allan asked that if a new flora be prepared he hoped that it would remain as "Cheeseman's Flora of New Zealand" as a lasting commemoration of this man's great work.

Other papers read in the first day's session of the botanical section included A.J. Healy's review on the evolution of the Alien flora in New Zealand. He stated that 50 - 60% of the flora was now indigenous although in the past 160 years 1172 alien species have been recorded. He showed an excellent graph indicating that the increase of Alien species was proportional to the increase of cultivation.

Dr. H.H. Allan in his short address on "The Ecological Aspect of Wild Hybrids in N.Z." stressed the importance of hybrid vigour. Miss R. Mason gave a series of new plant records in the North West Nelson district. She stated that the apparent scattered distribution of species in this district was due to the lack of collectors rather than to natural distribution of the plants.

Wednesday morning session was devoted to Forestry with Mr. C.M. Smith as chairman and officers of the State Forest Service gave accounts of different aspects of their work. The Chairman opened proceeding with an address to the section on the history of forestry. J. Holloway, son of the late Dr. Holloway, gave an account of the economics of silver beech in the Logwood Range. He stated that silver beech forest on swampy ground at low altitudes would regenerate when cut and was the most suitable type of silver beech forest for forestry projects.

A.P. Thomson's paper on aerial photography in Forestry was most interesting and showed how useful this method is in estimating the extent and quantity of timber present. By the older methods, many miles would have to be covered to make such an estimation.

On Wednesday afternoon Dr. Vernon was chairman and papers in the Mycology and Bacteriology Section were read. The session opened with 4 papers by officers of the Plant Diseases Division, representing a symposium of the history of Plant Pathology in New Zealand. Dr. I.D. Blair read an account of the ecology of some soil fungi: in it he showed that competition existed between some common soil fungi.

On Thursday morning Mr. J.P. Hudson was chairman and papers in the horticultural section were read. Different aspects of Horticultural Education was the subject of a symposium of 6 short papers: school gardening, home gardening, and the training of professional horticulturists were discussed.

Genetics was the subject of a joint session held with the Zoology section on Thursday afternoon. Mr. W.A. Thompson showed some interesting lantern slides of wild hybrids of Celmisia glandulosa and C. holosericea collected from the Fiord Botanic district. His slides also included pictures of the progeny he had obtained in artificial crosses between these two plants in his own garden. At the conclusion of this session Dr. Frankel assisted by Miss A.P. Wylie gave a demonstration of some slides of chromosomes of some native plants and some slides showing the abnormalities in wheat chromosomes discussed earlier in the afternoon by Dr. Frankel.

On Friday morning Dr. Oliver was again in the chair and papers in the general Botany section were read. Prof. V.J. Chapman and two of his students, Miss M. Ambler and Mr. A.E. Beveridge, read a series of three papers in the operation of tidal factors on the vegetation of the sea shores around Auckland. Miss L.B. Moore's paper on Marine Algal provinces was extremely interesting and it was with great regret that I missed half owing to an unnotified alteration of programme.

Mr. Wm. Martin read an account of the Bryophytes of Stewart Island. It was very interesting to note the amount of material that can be collected in a limited area.

At the conclusion of this session a resolution to go before the Congress Committee was proposed by Miss R. Mason and carried unanimously by the members of the section. This motion asked that the government be approached to preserve special areas of natural vegetation throughout New Zealand, these areas to include special associations e.g. mangrove swamp, gumland, sub alpine tussock as well as typical forest areas and to be preserved inviolate for all time. With this the Botanical section meeting concluded.

The proceedings of the Science Congress are shortly to be published. The publication will include at least an abstract of all the papers read at the Congress. This account only includes a few brief remarks on some of the papers which it was thought might be of interest."

- Joan M. Dingley.