

But it is among the Hymenophyllaceae that the most sweeping and alarming changes have been made. Christensen had divided this great family of over 600 species into four genera, nearly all of the species being included under Hymenophyllum or Trichmanes. Professor Copeland, our greatest authority on this fascinating family, has divided the family into thirty three genera, of which New Zealand has fourteen. The family is, he tells us "diversified beyond the belief of those who have not given it particular study." In addition to the shape and structure of the sorus the microscopic structure of the fern frond, the presence of false "veins" the nature of the hairy covering etc. are of diagnostic importance. It is noteworthy that Copeland's researches have increased the endemism among our N.Z. species. Several though widely distributed are now shown to be confined to New Zealand, while the widely distributed Hymenophyllum tunbridgense and Trichomanes humile are now believed not to be found in New Zealand at all - our ferns being Hymenophyllum revolutum Colenso (endemic) and Crepidopteris endlicheriana Presl (New Zealand to Norfolk, Fiji and Tahiti).

The lecture was illustrated by diagrams of fern structures important in classification, as the lecturer felt that these would be more helpful in clarifying points at issue than any lantern slides then available.

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NEWS OF MEMBERS

It is with regret that we learn that Miss Betty Molesworth, Museum Botanist, is leaving Auckland for Malay where she intends to study tropical vegetation. Miss Molesworth was the first secretary of the Botanical Society, holding the position till she left Auckland for Dunedin where she studied Botany under the late Doctor Holloway. Following her appointment to the Auckland Museum, Miss Molesworth again participated actively in the Society's work. Many of our members will possess her admirable little Bulletin on "Salt Marshes", and we regret that her departure will prevent a Bulletin on Mosses, a subject on which she has specialised. While at the Museum she did fine work on both the general and the Cheeseman herbarium, and during her sojourn she hopes to be able to provide the Museum collections with additional foreign material.

Our very best wishes to Miss Molesworth in her future journeyings, and our hopes that she will not lose touch with the Society that she has served so well.

Our best wishes to Mr. L.H. Millener who has left us for two years to carry out research work at Pembroke College Cambridge. Mr. Millener, who is one of our foundation members will be much missed but our regret will be tempered by the thought that he will return in due course "bearing his sheaves with him". In any case we are very glad that one who has always spent himself so strenuously and unselfishly on other people's work, should at last have an opportunity of giving undivided attention to his own!

While Mr. Millener is in England his place will be taken by Dr. Sutherland, at one time Professor of Botany at Southampton University and for many years engaged in important Botanical work for the Ministry of Education in England. Dr. Sutherland is not only a very keen botanist but also a very keen horticulturist. In England he specialised in rock gardening and at one time his rock garden boasted 400 different species of rock plants. Dr. Sutherland is particularly interested in the lower plants, although "all's fish that comes to his net." A keen field Botanist, he has already joined our Society where his geniality and enthusiasm will make him a valued member. We take this opportunity of extending to him and to Mrs. Sutherland a most hearty welcome.

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SOME GROWTH NOTES OF NATIVE TREES

Many native trees, especially conifers, have been cultivated in private gardens in this country during the last 50 years. Yet it is often difficult to obtain accurate information about them, as records so easily become lost. Members are invited to send in notes to the editor about any native trees of which the growth history is known. These can be inserted in the newsletters and a permanent record is then made.

Below is a note on totara sent in by a new member, Mr. V. Thomson, formerly of Dunedin:

"A totara tree was planted by my late father in the winter of 1908, on the south side of my then home at Gladstone Road, Dunedin North. It was a two year seedling, wrenched after the first year to facilitate transplanting." He goes on to say