

(a female) neither of course bearing developed fruit. But recently I have discovered that there is another in Parnell Park, and from this tree I actually obtained a fully developed pod, very dry, almost black,  $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide and  $4\frac{1}{4}$ " long. It was the only bean on the tree, and may have been the only one to mature, but I will watch with interest from March onward and see what happens. This tree may be one of the rare dioecious specimens, having perfect flowers, or of course it may have been pollinated by bees from the nearest and only male tree I know of, and that would be about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles away, not impossible. If this tree is self-pollinating, it may be that its seeds would germinate a greater percentage of its kind, and so help on the development of this interesting fruit in Auckland. There are several Carob Beans at Keri Keri, but I have never heard of any that developed more than one inch in length before falling off."

(This interesting Leguminous plant, which hails originally from Mediterranean lands produces pods containing a juicy pulp, and are used as fodder. They are known in the Old World as Algaroba, or St. John's Bread. It is said that the seeds were the original carats of the jewellers. Ed.)

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Mrs. Molesworth has recently been kind enough to forward me specimens of the foliage, flowers and fruit, of that most fascinating plant, the "native" gourd, Lagenaria vulgaris. Lagenaria is not actually a native though it flourished in the northern parts of New Zealand long before the coming of the white man, since it was introduced by the Maoris. It has served the Polynesian people in manifold ways, entering very largely into the native economy in the Hawaiian Islands, where a particularly large form was grown. The Maoris used gourds as containers for water, oil, and preserved birds, as bowls etc., for food, and as whistles, floats, humming-tops, trumpets and masks.

The Hawaiians also used them as travelling and storage trunks, ossuary urns, numerous kinds of toys, as drums, decoys, lures, fish-line reels, bailers, funnels, lamps, strainers etc.

Mrs. Molesworth's vines came from seven seeds brought from the Great Barrier by Miss Betty Molesworth. These all germinated and produced large and lovely climbers. The foliage

and flowers resemble those of a pumpkin, but the leaves are a richer green and the flowers are pure white.

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### NEWS OF MEMBERS

A short time ago, in appreciation of services always so willingly rendered to the Botanical Society, members arranged for a sum of money to be placed to the credit of Mr. L.H. Millener, at Heffer's Bookshop in Cambridge where Mr. Millener is at present carrying out research work. The Treasurer has just received the following letter from him, which I am sure all members will be gratified to read.

"The Treasurer, Auckland Botanical Society - Dear Mr. Butler, I have just received your letter of the 10th inst with its very kind wishes and the notification that a sum of money, which I consider more than substantial, has been placed to my credit at Heffer's. You can imagine how pleased I am to receive such a compliment from my many good friends in the Botanical Society. Will you please convey to the Secretary and so to the Society in general, my sincere thanks?

Curiously enough I have been debating for the last couple of weeks whether I could expend precious sterling on books which, although they are to be found in the excellent library here, I shall be using so much that to have them by me constantly would be a great convenience. Now, thanks to the Society, I shall be able to spread myself beyond my original regrettably limited field.

For my part I would like to say that any feeling of having accomplished anything for the Society has always been tempered with the regret that, under the conditions of my one-time position in the Botany Dept., I was unable to do more. Upon my return, since the Department itself is now so much better off generally than it was, I shall hope to be able to make the deed match the intention.

I have been quite unable to resist the temptation to take a series of pictures in colour of this very beautiful and fascinating Cambridge. Perhaps in 1950 or so, the Society would like to see them as slides. I should have no hesitation in including many quite unrelated to Botany, for although the Botany School here is world famous, Cambridge, as you well know, does not live