

restful morning at the best of times. One feels that to isolate 200 (frequently bewildered) children from the age of eight upwards, in a room without any adult direction or advice would not be in the best interests of a young people's show, indeed one feels that undue strictness in this direction would have a discouraging effect more particularly on some of the small country schools. The committee has therefore modified rule (a) of the competitions in order to make help with and advice about the setting up of exhibits permissive.

It is inevitable in these competitions, as in so many other situations in life, that certain people start with considerable initial advantage. If a child goes to a school having one (or maybe several) keen students of nature on its staff, and further, comes from a district where there are well-informed adults outside the school who are keen to interest young people in their native flora or are keen cultivators of native plants, naturally such a child has an advantage over one situated where there is little knowledge of or enthusiasm for native plants. The point is that help should be given in such a way as to stimulate the child's interest and provide it with dependable knowledge. In order that the position of the Committee may be made quite clear the rules for the competitions for the 1955 Show are published below.

#### Competitions for Pupils of Primary, Intermediate and Secondary Schools.

In all sections of this competition, plants MUST BE NATIVE TO NEW ZEALAND. Only two prizes will be awarded in any section where there are less than six entries. Entry forms must arrive at the Museum by Friday, --September.

The competition will consist of two sections: (A) School Exhibits (B) Individual Exhibits. The exhibits must be the work of the children, as far as possible, though they may have advice from adults in setting up the specimens. It must be remembered that the purpose of the competitions is not to encourage a competitive spirit but to stimulate an interest in native plants among school-children by the interchange of information about them.

Schools and children may send in more than one entry in each division if desired. Tables and vases will be supplied. Exhibits must arrive at the Museum by 10 a.m. on Saturday, 12th September, and be arranged by 12.30 p.m.

In the displays, the main point to be considered will be: botanical interest. Presentation of the displays will be considered by the judges where two entrants are equal in all other respects. Each specimen must be correctly labelled, giving scientific name, and, wherever possible, as a main heading, the Maori or common name. Labels should be printed in pencil or some medium WHICH WILL NOT RUN WHEN WET. A label with the name of the school, or the child, for display on the table, must be included.

Where possible, choose specimens showing both flower and fruit. Some plants have variable foliage and extra points will be given for exhibits showing this. More than one piece of each species can be placed in a vase if desired.

Country schools, or children, unable to set up displays should send arrangements showing desired arrangement. Plants packed in damp moss will

retain their freshness if soaked before packing.

Two special prizes will be awarded to small country schools working under difficulties. In this and in other awards the decision of the judges is final.

Note:

The Committee has also made some alterations in the schedule of competitions.

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Waipoua.

Members are reminded that the list for the Waipoua trip (January 15th to January 22nd) is almost complete. As bus accommodation is strictly limited anyone wishing to come must notify the Secretary at once.

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Happy Christmas

The Editor takes this opportunity of wishing all members a Happy Christmas and pleasant Holidays.

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