

FLOWER CULTURE IN BRITAIN.

The contribution of the British flower breeder to horticulture is the theme of a small exhibition which is to be held in the Cheeseman Hall of Natural History at the Auckland Museum from the 26th May to the 19th June, 1955. Ever since the Middle Ages flower culture in Britain has been both an industry and a passion. With species drawn from every part of the earth, the British flower breeder has produced blooms of ever-increasing variety and splendour.

The exhibition will form part of the Tours and Gardens section of the 1955 Auckland Festival. Placards and colour transparencies from the Festival of Britain will be exhibited, as well as flower prints and books from the library of the Auckland Museum.

I should appreciate it if members who have suitable coloured illustrations of old or new garden plants would communicate with me at the Museum (41-132) or at home (88-594).

ROBERT COOPER.

OBITUARY

It is with deep regret that we record the passing of Mrs. O.N. Tonkin a foundation member of our Society. Mrs. Tonkin had a deep love for native plants and devoted her artistic talents with great enthusiasm to painting them in water colours and occasionally oils. She did not confine her attention to the most spectacular of our native flowers, but endeavoured to make her paintings representative of as many types as possible. She paid great attention to accurate delineation, and tried where possible to study plants in their natural surroundings. Consequently, when she very generously presented about 250 of her pictures to the Botany Department of the Auckland University College, the Department acquired not only appropriate and charming decoration, but also something that was of very real value to students of botany.

Mrs. Tonkin was a very keen member of our Society and retained her interest in our activities right until her final illness. We shall miss her gentle and unassuming presence amongst us.

Mr. Robert David Scott died at the age of 77 years in January, 1955. His interest in native plants began nearly 40 years ago when he was living at Picton and met Mr. J.H. Macmahon, a keen amateur botanist. Macmahon's name is kept green by *Celmisia macmahoni* T. Kirk, a beautiful little daisy which he discovered on Mt. Stokes and Mt. Richmond. For the rest of his life Mr. Scott was keenly interested in native and introduced plants, and his accurate determinations were of great help to the writer and other members of the Society. Probably it was his quiet enthusiasm which led his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Mavis Scott, to photograph the flowers of Arthur's Pass National Park. Some of the best of her studies are included in Laing and Blackwell's "Plants of New Zealand" and E.C. Richards' "Our New