

island inhabited by "forty able men and true", and this has been done ever since. As on the other inhabited islands there, the feudal lord was called the Seigneur. He was one Hilary de Carteret who was then the senior Seigneur on Jersey (and whose descendents, in fact, still have that title). About 150 years later the Seigneury was sold and has changed hands several times until 1852, when it was bought by forbears of the present "Dame de Sercq" (Dame Hathaway).

Sark has its own local government, but I think these days Guernsey, the nearest large island has a great deal of say. There is a curious French patois spoken, rather similar to the one on a small part of the Normandy coast. (In Guernsey and Jersey it is not done to speak French, and even the pronunciation of the gallic names, has in many cases been anglicised). In spite of the government the Dame still has many privileges, and thus the feudal laws are kept up. Only she may keep a dove-cote and bitch. There are many poor restless dogs but only one female. Had this extended to cats as well it may have done some good, for there are hundreds of semi-wild ones which roam about doing great damage to very interesting bird-life. No cars are allowed on the island, but there are post-war, diesel tractors which seem to do the general carrying, but the usual form of transport is still the incredibly ancient horse-drawn carriages. There are two types, Victorias and Waggonettes; I am told this is what they are for the style was before my time!

It is a lovely little island, and one feels if the people were energetic enough (which they are not) trees could be grown to from wind-breaks, as has been done so successfully in the Scillies with certain species of *Pinus* and with *Pittosporum crassifolium*, thus protecting their homes and land.

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#### News from Waipoua.

The highlight of the Waipoua trip, at any rate botanically speaking, was the discovery of a strange orchid. It has been forwarded to Mr. E. Hatch and he has kindly sent us a note on it, to which he has been good enough to attach a very clear line drawing which should be of great assistance to all seeking further specimens of this interesting find. Mr. Hatch also includes a note on the naming of the saprophytic species of *Corybas*.

#### ORCHID NOTES.

Edwin D. Hatch.

Miss Elizabeth Kulka recently passed on to me an orchid specimen collected last January while the Bot. Soc. were at Waipoua. This plant interested me immensely since it obviously did not belong to any of the 22 orchid genera so far recorded from New Zealand. I sent to Australia in the hope that it might find relatives among the 80-odd genera there, but without success. The flower is rather small, and extremely difficult to decipher in the dried state, so that living material, particularly of the column and labellum, will be necessary before we can determine this plant. It is almost certainly an undescribed species, possibly even a new genus. I hope to get up to Waipoua next summer, but should any member stumble on this orchid in the meantime, I shall be grateful for fresh specimens, alive or in pickle. Miss Kulka describes it as