

AUCKLAND BOTANICAL SOCIETY

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We regret that Miss Moore's article arrived too late for publication in our last News Letter. We have much pleasure in publishing it in the current issue.

PRESENTATION OF THE HECTOR MEDAL TO LUCY CRANWELL SMITH

The Auckland Botanical Society has always been a co-operative effort, supported by a band of enthusiasts of diverse talents. But if any one person could be named as the founder and originator of the Society it would be Lucy Cranwell, Botanist to the Auckland Museum from 1929 to 1944. It is fitting therefore that we record our pleasure at the presentation of the Hector Medal and Prize to this friend of ours. The award was made in 1954 but only this year has the recipient, now Mrs. Watson Smith of Tucson, Arizona, been able to return to accept the honour in person.

The Hector Memorial Medal and Prize are awarded annually by the Royal Society of New Zealand for work of great merit, in rotation for six branches of science. They commemorate the work in New Zealand of Sir James Hector, K.C.M.G., F.R.S., M.D., founder of the Royal Society of New Zealand and its manager and editor from 1867 to 1903. Hector is remembered also as director of the Geological Survey over the same period and organizer of the Colonial Museum (now Dominion Museum), the Dominion Laboratory and the Meteorological Office. He did much geological exploration in Otago and before coming to New Zealand had won fame by discovering the first practicable pass over the Rocky Mountains--he it was who suffered from the Kicking Horse for which the Pass was named.

The ceremony took place in the Museum Library on May 31st, at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting of the Auckland Institute and Museum. The presentation was made by Prof. L.H. Briggs, recently elected President of the Royal Society of New Zealand and himself a Hector Medalist in Chemistry. The medal, a handsome bronze plaque some 2½ inches in diameter and weighing about five ounces, is inscribed "1954. Lucy Cranwell Smith, M.A., F.L.S., F.R.S.N.Z. for Researches in Botany". Prof. Briggs recounted in some detail the scope and breadth

of Mrs. Smith's botanical interests and activities, stressing particularly the importance of her pioneer work on pollen and peat, the first of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere. The results are recorded in a series of papers of which the largest and latest is "New Zealand Pollen Studies. The Monocotyledons" published by Harvard University Press for the Auckland Institute and Museum in 1953. The companion volume on Dicotyledons is in active preparation. This is the first time the Hector Medal has been awarded to a woman scientist and Mrs. Smith is to be congratulated on joining the very select band of botanists who have shared the honour: Cockayne (the first award in 1912), Cheeseman, Petrie, Holloway, Oliver, Allan and Cunningham.

We hope that Mrs. Smith and her small son have enjoyed their short visit with us, we wish them well on their return to Arizona, and we trust that it will not be long before we see them here again.

Lucy B. Moore.

ONCE MORE "THE CHEESEMAN".

Owing to the slight moisture that has characterised the preceding months, some of us have been feeling that spring was a long way off. But now here it is complete with Cheeseman Flower Show. The Show usually brings complications of one sort or another in its train, and this year it brings a crop of quite unusual interest and challenge.

Owing to the alterations now in full swing at the War Memorial Museum, the large carrying lift at the rear of the building is not in use so all material must be carried by the passenger lift. The good swift flowing tap at the end of the hall will no longer be available, and the somewhat gentler source of supply in the room next the Botanist's room must now be used. Further, all waste material must be removed via our beautiful front steps and not scuttled away discreetly from the rear. But do these obstacles matter very much? To a keen Society they should provide stimulus rather than discouragement.

Our problems may be met in three ways:

1. Displays must be planned and chosen that can be set up despite these limiting factors. Pictures and other "properties" can be used to supplement our collections of living specimens.
2. We can take care to select our material carefully so that unused material will not reach unmanageable proportions.
3. It will be possible to solve some of our waste disposal problems through the good offices of Mr. N. Kitchen, who has kindly promised to appear before the Museum with a trailer. We trust that Mr. Kitchen is an accredited member of the Rubbish Collectors' Union.

But whether he is or not we are sure members will facilitate his labours by lightening them as much as possible. It is amazing how quickly Flower Show Vegetation can accumulate.