

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.

When members are bringing in material it is as well to remember that every little helps. Sometimes people say, "I had a lovely little tree of ----- but only a couple of sprays were in flower. There was not enough to fill a vase." No, perhaps not, but added to a few other odd sprays from here and there, your flowers may be just what is required to fill a vase to perfection.

Special Requirements.

Miss Dingley is setting up an exhibit of tea-tree. There has been some breeding carried out in recent years to produce attractive horticultural specimens. Miss Dingley would be glad of anything of interest in the manuka line either tame or wild.

The Natural History Club are dealing with the genus Pseudopanax and giving particular attention to the matter of hybrids. Anything "Queer" in that line will be gratefully received.

The Tree Society are coping with our native Conifers. Watch out then for flowering shoots on any you happen to encounter.

Some good clumps of our native fine maiden hair Adiantum aethiopicum would be very useful for decorative work. And remember that some of the most important specimens for producing a successful show are the human specimens, so do come along and help us if you can - no matter what your attainments we can guarantee a job.

We all greatly enjoyed Dr. Millener's article on the historic trees of Auckland that appeared in a recent News Letter (Dec.1955). Dr. Millener, in the course of his recent lecture to our Society was able to add a little further information, some of it pleasant, some depressing.

He mentioned, for instance, that of the four historic trees listed for Auckland by Dr. H.H. Allan (Jour. Roy.N.Z.Inst.Hort. 1940, 10,I:19) only one remains. The splendid oak tree of St. Leonard's Rd. easily the largest in Auckland was felled in 1945.

The great Norfolk Island pine in Mt. Smart Rd. that dates back to between 1840 and 1850 has disappeared. The totara planted by Princess Te Puea Herangi, on the site of the cottage of her great grandfather, Potatau Te Whero, has been stolen or uprooted - an inexcusable piece of vandalism. The giant pohutukawa, near the landing place at Waiheke Island still remains.

But all our tree losses are not due to vandalism of the inevitable growth of our city. Trees that may grow slowly for hundreds of years in colder regions, owing to our climatic conditions will grow with extraordinary rapidity and all too soon will become over-mature. This was the fate of the St. Leonard's Road oak and also the one planted by the Duke of Edinburgh (1869) in the old Campbell property where the Manor Hospital is now. The great Moreton Bay Fig (Ficus microphylla) of Government House grounds had to be felled because it had grown moribund.