

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.

On the other hand, when for reasons good or bad, an old tree goes, it is sometimes possible to perpetuate it. For instance, when the magnificent cabbage tree, Te Ti-tutahi, near the old Newmarket school was cut down, Colonel Morrow, infuriated at its destruction planted a branch in his garden at 28 Almorah Rd. Epsom, where it has thriven mightily. There is a possibility the Historic Places Society may be able to establish a third generation Ti-tutahi on the original site.

But what of trees that were here prior to the establishment of settlement (before 1840)?

There are the Domain Kanakas previously mentioned. There are two magnificent pohutukawas at the eastern end of Cockle Bay, some at Sulphur Beach, Northcote and a few others scattered round the harbour. There is also a fine old Pohutukawa on the original Garlick property at Mt. Albert opposite the Methodist Church. This originally had twenty trunks and even now has sixteen.

We trust that any members who have any further information about our historic trees, either living or dead, will communicate with Dr. Millener. It is hoped that one day the Institute of Horticulture will publish an article by Dr. Millener which will furnish a permanent record of what it has been possible to unearth on the subject of our precious, but diminishing store of historic trees.

SOME WEEDS IN MY GARDEN.

Part I.

M. Crookes.

As my readers will be only too well aware, New Zealand has a remarkably rich and varied weed flora. Immigrants from many diverse parts of the world crowd to our hospitable soils and nestle comfortably in, to add variety and interest to the home garden. So perhaps if we give a little attention to a few of the commonest we may come to view them, if not with respect, at least with respectful hatred.

Many weeds belong to families which include our choicest garden flowers, but require none of the care bestowed upon their more pampered relatives.

Who does not love carnations? These are aristocrats of the pink family (Caryophyllaceae) which also provides us with a good harvest of persistent weeds.

The Common Chickweed (Stellaria media Vill.) is a little spreading annual plant with smooth (hairless) opposite leaves. The succulent stems are bare except for--mark well--a single row of reflexed hairs that runs down only one side and is to be found on the edges of the small leaf stalks. As Hutchinson points out, these hairs, "are readily wetted by rain or dew and retain a considerable amount of water. This is conducted down the leaf stalks where some is absorbed by the lower cells of the hairs and any surplus is passed on to the next pair of leaves, and so on."