

Alpine areas but descends to sea level in Otago and Stewart Island. It is one of our two members of the Portulacaceae. Traces of the blue colouring still showed in the pressed specimens and they must have looked very beautiful when fresh. I have found this plant several times and the flowers have always been white, and I understand that pink flowers occur also. Has any other member seen the blue-flowered variety?

K. Wood.

(Cheeseman comments that this is a very variable little plant, the leaves, for instance, varying from  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length. It is not seen in the North Island north of Mt. Egmont and Ruapehu, but it is hoped that members faring afield to places where it may be found will acquaint themselves with our only native Claytonia so that they will not miss the form Mrs. Wood describes. Ed.)

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#### NEWS OF MEMBERS

Some of our members will remember a former secretary of the Society, Miss Pauline Buddle, daughter of Mrs. Basil Buddle, who was for a number of years our treasurer. Miss Buddle eventually went to Greece, where she was engaged in bacteriological work for U.N.R.A. Some years ago she married a Greek doctor, Dr. Haritonidis, and is now living in Athens. On her last visit to Auckland, when I had the pleasure of meeting her, she told of her delight in the Grecian wild flowers, and how she wished that her very busy life gave her a little more time for studying the native flora. Now Mrs. Haritonidis has been joined by an Englishwoman, interested in things botanical who has also settled in Greece. It is with great interest that we learn that they are starting a small Botanical Society in Athens. We offer them our very best wishes, and we shall be glad indeed to hear news of their activities and look forward to receiving a copy of their first News Letter - if they publish one.

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We are interested to hear that Betty Allen (née Molesworth) is back again in Malaya after extensive wanderings in Africa and elsewhere. In addition to her two papers on Malayan ferns, Mrs. Allen has also published a small popular book on common Malayan plants which has been very well received. We think Mrs. Allen is much to be congratulated that amidst her many travels, often living in surroundings fraught with danger, she can still maintain the flame of her enthusiasm, and continue to publish work of such value to nature lovers.

Calling All Members.

The Editor draws attention to the fact that the whole of this News Letter, apart from a contribution by the ever faithful Mrs. Wood, has been editorially produced. She submits that even the most willing editorial horse needs at least some literary fodder. Failing that it is likely to die of some horrible equine disease, or alternatively rising on its hind legs, paw the air with outraged hooves. So what?

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