

Centella asiatica and its close relative Hydrocotyle novae-zealandiae both members of the Parsley family and like the Schizeilemas mentioned by Mrs. Hynes, small herbs. Altogether it was a very well-satisfied party that made for home. The excursion was led by the editor.

M. Crookes

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NEWS OF MEMBERS

Our news of members is more than good. First our Society will rejoice to know that one of our foundation members, and one who played a very prominent part in the founding of the Society, has been notified that she has had a D. Sc. conferred on her by the University of New Zealand.

Lucy Cranwell became botanist to the Auckland Museum in 1929, where she remained until 1944 when she married Major S. Watson Smith of the United States Forces and left for America where she has lived ever since.

While in New Zealand she published a number of papers on scientific subjects, and in 1935, under the guidance of Professor L. von Post, she began her study of New Zealand pollens and her first paper (in collaboration with von Post) was published in Sweden in 1936. In 1939 and 1940 she issued further papers on New Zealand pollens. In 1952 was published her first volume of New Zealand Pollen Studies dealing with the monocotyledons. This beautifully produced and illustrated volume was issued by the Harvard University Press for the Auckland Institute and Museum. Her pollen work on the New Zealand dicotyledons, which will form Volume 2 of New Zealand Pollen Studies is now well advanced.

While in New Zealand she did fine work in regard to scenery preservation. She also did a great deal to stimulate interest in New Zealand botany, not least in her work on the children's page of the "New Zealand Herald" while many of our members will have derived help from "The Botany of Auckland" published in collaboration with Professor Arnold Wall (also a member of our Society), now unfortunately out of print. In 1944 she was made a fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand while in 1954 she received the Hector Medal, the highest award that can be conferred by the Royal Society of New Zealand. She was the first woman to receive the honour.

We take this opportunity of congratulating Lucy Cranwell-Smith on her doctorate and wish her every success in the completion of her very valuable work, New Zealand Pollen Studies.

It seems very fitting that two New Zealand botanists, who have been life-long friends should both in different ways be honoured in the same year. Like Lucy Cranwell, Lucy Moore was a foundation member of our Society, and she also helped to bring it into being. In 1932 Miss Moore joined the staff of the Auckland University College as assistant in the Department of Zoology. During that time she published several papers on botanical and zoological subjects. In 1938 she left Auckland to join the Botany Division of the D.S.I.R. Here she carried out further research work some of it having a practical bent, such as her work on agar, which enabled New Zealand to produce its own material when Japanese supplies were cut off during the war.

She has also worked some years carrying out work on tussock grassland at Molesworth. Her labours in building up the herbarium at Botany Division has put botanists in her debt.

Like Lucy Cranwell she has done much to stimulate interest in New Zealand Botany. Her bulletins published by the Education Department on Seaweeds, Shore Plants and Dune Plants, are models of clarity and precision and are beautifully figured by Nancy Adams. Although written for secondary school pupils, those members of the Society fortunate enough to acquire them have found them most helpful.

But of recent years she has been engaged in work that is as important as it is unspectacular. Some years ago there was assigned to the late Dr. H.H. Allan the herculean task of revising "The Cheeseman". The last edition of the Manual of the New Zealand Flora was published in 1925. Since then a colossal amount of botanical research has been done, some on our own flora, some on matters directly affecting it. The work of revision is necessarily difficult, exacting and often frustrating, involving not only the revision of names records and descriptions but the construction of new keys, rearrangement of species and genera, and many other lengthy and often tedious tasks, which only those who have themselves been engaged in such work can fully appreciate. It is work too that carries with it as a rule little public appreciation, people being inclined merely to snort disgustedly and say "why can't they leave the names alone?".

Miss Moore was Dr. Allan's chief assistant in this arduous task and on his death she was left to carry on the work. We are glad to know the task is nearing completion.

In 1944 she was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand and recently was President of the Wellington Branch of that body.

She was honoured by the Queen this year receiving the M.B.E. We unite in congratulating her, both on her work and on the recognition it has received.