

QUARTERLY NEWS LETTER

AUCKLAND BOTANICAL SOCIETY

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The editor takes this opportunity of wishing all members a happy Christmas. It is rather a special Christmas for the Society this year as it has just received two very lovely Christmas presents.

In the first place, our good friend Lucy Cranwell-Smith who watches over our affairs from afar has just played fairy godmother to the Society with a very generous gift indeed. Some while back she posted to the editor a cheque of fifty pounds as a contribution to the production of the News Letter. After a good deal of thought and two discussions, the editor and the committee eventually decided that the greatest value would be had from this windfall by investing it in a duplicator. With rising costs the problem of producing four News Letters a year has not been getting any easier.

Through the good offices of our secretary and her husband, we are now in possession of a Gestetner duplicator. The instrument is to all intents and purposes new as it has only been used a few times, so now we shall not only be able to duplicate our News Letter, but the instrument will be available for notices, species lists etc., giving the officers of the society a warm pleasant feeling of affluence.

Our very hearty thanks to Lucy Cranwell-Smith for her goodness and generosity to us.

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But the acquisition of a duplicator does not exhaust the story of our good fortune, for we have a second gift of an entirely

different character. The editor has long regretted the somewhat pedestrian appearance of our News Letter and now, as members will have already noted, all is changed by the addition of a most attractively designed cover.

Anxious to construct something really characteristic of the north, Ruth Coyle, after a good deal of thought, eventually selected for her motif a spray of Kauri with cones and fronds of the quaint little Comb Fern (Schizaea dichotoma) which is appropriate as being partial to kauri humus. It is by no means easy to combine these two very dissimilar plants to form an effective panel and the artist (who is not easily satisfied as regards such matters) had already worked out four when the editor was permitted a preview. Having eventually completed the design to her satisfaction, our secretary then ordered a block to be made and a good supply of covers, both of which she has now presented to the Society.

I am sure all our members will be delighted with this most attractive cover design and will join with the Editor in a very hearty "Thank you" to our secretary.

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Members were much intrigued by Professor Chapman's lecture dealing with recent developments in marine biology. The professor has kindly written a short bulletin on the subject which will be shortly available from the secretary. In these latter days more and more attention is being focussed on the sea as a means of supplying various human needs. Something of what is afoot is discussed in the new Bulletin.

Marine Botany - The Field of the Future, by Professor V.J. Chapman. (Price Sixpence plus postage)

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### The "Cheeseman" Once Again

Alterations to the Museum necessitated temporary suspension of the Cheeseman Memorial Spring Flower Show but this year the way was clear, and the show once more held, being organised by the Museum Botanist, Dr. R. Cooper and a committee from the Auckland Botanical Society.

I think we all enjoyed the show immensely and it was good to meet old friends and country members as in previous years. The decorative and botanical aspects of the show were well balanced. A number of interested Societies set up exhibits. The Bird and Forest Society showed an attractive patio decorated with native