

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.

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)

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

plants. The Tree Society displayed a fine exhibit on the subject of the kauri, while the Natural History Club had an unusual exhibit entitled "The Forest Floor". The Botanical Society occupied one complete hall with its exhibition of beautiful and interesting plants of the North Island and outlying islands. These were all carefully labelled and aroused a good deal of interest. Mr. Farnell's attractively arranged collections of handsome and unusual native trees and shrubs maintained the high standard we have come to expect from him.

Visitors were intrigued by an exhibit of seaweeds set up by Professor Chapman and members of his staff, in which it was shown how the modern marine botanist is able to keep his seaweeds alive and healthy. The editor contributed a display of ferns, in which she received generous help from members - that help is now gratefully acknowledged.

Two groups of Maoris, demonstrating with detailed explanations the processes of Maori weaving, attracted the attention of both young and old.

Altogether we felt the "Cheeseman" sprang to life again in a thoroughly vital and vigorous way.

Several members have spoken to the editor of their interest and pleasure in Betty Molesworth-Allen's "A Journey to Africa" published in the June number of the News Letter. They will then be glad to enjoy a further account of her African wanderings.

A Journey in Africa Part 2.

Southern Rhodesian roads were dusty, coating the dry thorn scrub through which we were passing in the shimmering heat, with only the lovely Wisteria tree (Bolusanthus not Bolanthus as previously written) in flower for colour. To me, here was one of the most exciting of African trees. The Baobab (Adansonia digitata), the first I had seen in its wild state. The enormous swollen and soft looking trunks held aloft great leafless branches, like tentacles reaching outwards. It was easy to believe the ancient African legend that the tree now stands on its head! Once, when there was only one of its kind, it so angered its local god over some matter, we gather not so trivial, that the deity pulled the Baobab up in temper and thrust it back upside down, and so its descendents remain today.