

induced heath comprising manuka, kanuka, Gahnia xanthocarpa (up to 12 ft. high), terrestrial species of Astelia, four species of Lycopodium, bracken, Paesia, Cordyline banksii, various sedges and terrestrial orchids.

As we did not go into the depths of the gullies, we saw only one species of Hymenophyllum. Interesting finds included: Loxoma cunninghamii growing happily beside a large patch of Gnaphalium keriense in full bloom, a tree of Dacrydium intermedium 25 ft. high, Phebalium nudum; Meterosideros albiflora still in bloom; Nothofagus fusca and N. truncata; kauri; Ascarina lucida; Phyllocladus glaucus; Gymnelaea montana; Persoonia toru; Neopanax simplex; Eugenia maire; Pittosporum kirkii.

The total number of native species for the Neavesville part of our day was 135. The earth sculpture, the geology and the historical associations of this area are as interesting as the botanical.

Neavesville is now deserted with only a few relics to show that it was once a rip-roaring town. There is still some of the machinery of the old battery and there are several tunnels by which the gold-bearing rocks were reached.

The hotel and the miners' huts have gone, but foxgloves, seedling apple and cherry trees show "where once the garden smiled."

A distressing sight is a grave surrounded by a broken palisade with willows growing up through it. Surely an Historical Society could restore the palisade and remove the willows.

A rare diversity of landscape is provided by deep ravines, many waterfalls and a series of peaks reaching a height of more than 2500 ft. - Pakirarahi, Kaitarakihi, Motutapere and the Pinnacles - and not far away to the east is the "unplumb'd, salt, estranging sea."

Recent Publications

Two publications of considerable interest have recently become available. For the benefit of members they are briefly reviewed.

Trees and Shrubs of New Zealand by A.L. Poole and N.M. Adams. Published by the Government Printer, Wellington.

In a leaflet regarding the book, issued by the Government Printer, it is stated as follows:

"This book has been designed especially to assist the many people who lack a formal botanical training yet are deeply interested in New Zealand's trees and shrubs and want to be able

to identify them and name them correctly. Many years of thought and revision have gone into the work so that scientific accuracy might be combined with a not too technical form of presentation. With this end in view the authors have avoided technical terms as much as possible; their system of identification is based primarily on leaf characteristics - size, shape, whether smooth or hairy, and so on - little reference for this purpose being made to flower structure and its complications. There is a complete coverage of the native trees and shrubs and over 400 species have been illustrated."

The book is cloth bound and contains 256 pages. It is printed in a very clear type. The illustrations by Miss Adams are excellent. Indeed they are so good that it is almost unnecessary to read the description of a tree or shrub to identify it. This book is not only of great value to the outdoor botanist but in addition, for secondary school pupils, beginners or those who do not desire to study our flora too deeply, this is, in my opinion, the best book of its type yet to come on the market. I can confidently recommend it. Priced at only £1. 5. 0. it is within the reach of all, and a real bargain at that price. Those who find Dr. Allan's "Flora of New Zealand" a little too technical for them or the cost prohibitive, should obtain a copy while stocks last. I understand that there has already been a heavy demand for the work. Copies may be obtained from the Government Bookshop State Advances Building, Rutland Street, from Whitcombe & Tombs Ltd., Queen Street, and from other leading booksellers.

New Zealand Ferns (Sixth Edition) by M. Crookes.
Published by Whitcombe & Tombs Ltd.

Quite a number of our members have awaited this book for some time. A comprehensive review appeared in the "N.Z. Herald" of 10th August, but as some may not have noticed this article, attention is drawn to the fact that the book is now on the market.

Like previous editions, this is a first class book. It is printed in clear type on art paper. The plates are from photographs, making identification immeasurably easier for the amateur. It incorporates the illustrations and original work by H.B. Dobbie, but in this respect I would quote from the author's preface:

"Inclusion of some results of modern research has, in a few cases, involved the cutting down of some of the late Mr. Dobbie's general comments, though these have for the most part been retained and marked where necessary by inverted commas.

The original plates from photographs by the late Mr T.W. Birch of Mr. Dobbie's beautifully set out specimens, have in some cases been replaced or added to to the extent of 28 plates and 16 insets."

Some of the additional information is in respect of the forms of Blechnum capense (Syn. Blechnum procerum) and Asplenium flaccidum. These various forms are beautifully illustrated.

In the matter of nomenclature, the author has not adhered to all of the names given in Dr. Allan's "Flora of New Zealand". This may upset some members and cause them to say again, "What! More changes of names." Personally I do not think it matters much. Whether you call a spade a spade or a shovel, it is still the same instrument. With a little application, members will soon know a fern by its several names and if old names should be used instead of new, members can count on sympathy.

For the fern lovers this book is of course a "must". The price of £2.15.0 may seem a little high to some, but it must be remembered that the book is in the top class in every respect. If you cannot afford a copy, a gentle hint to friends or relations might gain for you a gift copy at Christmas or on your birthday.

The book is obtainable from Whitcombe & Tombs Ltd. Queen St., or from other leading booksellers.

F.M.W.

Apologies

In the August number of the News Letter, it was stated that the new record of Bulbophyllum tuberculatum Col. was made by Mr Butler. Actually it was made by Mr Warren. Apologies to both gentlemen.

In the August number of the News Letter, when discussing species of the family Malvaceae, the editor inadvertently alluded to this family as the marrow family instead of the mallow family.

The marrow family more often referred to as the melon, cucumber or gourd family (Cucurbitaceae) is represented in New Zealand by only one species Sicyos angulata L. The family provides us with no weeds though Allan mentions pumpkin, marrow, cucumber and the calabash gourd as having occurred as garden escapes.

The mallow family, on the other hand, in addition to giving us our native genera of Hibiscus, Plagianthus and Hoheria, provides us with a number of common weeds, the various mallows for instance, the common mallow, the musk mallow, the tree mallow (Lavatera arborea), etc.
