

Our "sister" Society in Wellington, of which some here are members, issues a printed Bulletin periodically under the editorship of Tony Druce. The feasibility of our Society producing a printed Newsletter is worthy of another look I feel, as duplicating has its limitations. To improve this a quick drying ink is used now. I should say that membership and subscriptions of the Wellington Society are comparable to ours, and they have found it possible to go into print.

To this issue Tony Druce contributes a number of articles: a Note on Snow Damage in the Tararua's; Totara Forest at Ohau and Secondary Totara-titoki-matai Forest on the Otaki Plain. A good effort - possibly reflecting a similar lack of contributors? When the Editor not only edits, but has to contribute most of the copy the task is quite considerable, particularly when the drafts have to be laboriously transferred to stencils. I may be digressing a little, but the services of a good typist are required before another issue appears - so please speak up now!

Norman Elder reports on matagouri (*Discaria toumatou*) in the North Island, where it is nowhere a prominent species as it is in the South Island (eastern parts of), but does occur widely in small pockets. He knows of three small colonies on rocky sites near Wellington. On the West coast it occurs intermittently as far north as Waikato Heads, and there is a specimen in the Auckland Museum collected last century by Kirk on the dunes at Waiuku. I have asked a local resident to keep a look-out for it, and our local members may know of it? Any other records in the Auckland Province?

Astelids in the Wellington district are described and photographed by J.M. Morice, so this little known group should now be much clearer. It is of course included in our long-awaited booklet.

#### BOOKS

The publication this year of "Botanical Latin" by William Stearn of the Natural History Museum fills a longfelt need among those taxonomists who did not pursue a classical education. When science courses now demand almost full-time study, there is little room for Latin in so many schools. As so much descriptive taxonomy is of necessity in Latin, for all workers to understand a common language, biologists should have some knowledge of it. This book covers history, grammar, syntax, terminology and vocabulary, and being written by an eminent botanist with a special interest in the history of the subject, it makes a most valuable reference work, which a Latin scholar alone could not do justice to. Published by Nelson. Price here 13/-

Should members have botanical books in their possession which have been particularly useful to them, and which they feel would help many of our members, then please let me have a few notes, and I will add them to those I have for a future issue.