

sees it revitalizing the depressed West Coast area.

Surely both sides could be satisfied by a sensible compromise and it is a comment on the present climate of awareness of the need for conservation in New Zealand that the proposals are being properly discussed beforehand, rather than being sneaked in through the back door and presented as a fait accompli. If any members have strong views on this matter, please write and let me know.

Mr. L.W. Butler. Those of you who haven't yet heard will be sorry to know that Mr. Butler has been in hospital recently for an operation. He is now back home again and we wish him a speedy return to good health.

Mr. A.D. Mead. We shall shortly be saying a reluctant goodbye to Mr. Mead who is going to live with his daughter in Wellington. We shall sorely miss him and his wide knowledge of the Waitakere flora in particular, just as I am sure he will miss this part of the world. We wish him all the very best for his new life in Wellington, and hope that he will still keep in touch with us.

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#### BOOK REVIEW

"THE MOSSES OF NEW ZEALAND," by K.W. Allison and J. Child ( Otago University Press, \$6.60. 1971. c.150 pages.)

For those who have had difficulty for many years in the attempt to identify mosses, this book will be an important and useful addition to the somewhat meagre supply of books on mosses.

The plan of the book is similar to a very successful book by Watson on English mosses and liverworts and for each genus mentioned illustrates the main species with a line diagram and brief description. Notes are given on other species in the same genus which are also likely to be found.

Particularly useful is the illustrated discussion of the various terms used in descriptions of the parts of the moss plant as well as a list of habitats and various characteristic features which allow easy recognition of some species. A set of keys is also provided at the back of the book as an aid to the identification of the various species.

A selection of photographs is also presented as an additional guide to some of the commoner species and this will prove useful when dealing with some species, though with others it will be difficult to tell anything more than general habit from the photograph ( eg Plate 7 Fissidens rigidulus, Plate 25 Orthorhynchium elegans ).

There is a tendency to compare this book with the somewhat similar one on lichens, but this is perhaps unfair as many of the differences can probably be attributed to the publishers, this book being on rather expensive, glossy paper and printed in New Zealand becomes a more costly example than the lichens book. The main point in common is the useful way each fills a gap that has been present so long that most people have almost come to accept it, and I hope that they will stimulate a new interest in these small, often colourful and extremely varied plants.

J.E. Braggins.