

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Waitakere Tip - a motion was put before the June monthly meeting of our Society, asking the Secretary to write objecting to the Waitemata County Council's proposed use of Duck's quarry and adjacent land as a rubbish tip. The motion was passed with a few slight amendments and an official objection has subsequently been lodged. For the information of those not present at the meeting the motion has been reprinted after these notes, together with an article by Miss. M. Crookes on the visit by the Society to the area in March of this year.

South Island Beech Forest - I feel that the prize for the wittiest poster seen in the present campaign should go to - "We will fight them on the Beeches". That for the most cynical reported comment on the whole affair must go to a Japanese who, when asked why Japan did not cut down and pulp more of its own native forests (which incidentally cover a greater percentage area than our own), replied "Why destroy our Japanese assets when we can buy pulp from New Zealand".

It was gratifying to see the tremendous response to the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society's recent petition praying for the preservation of beech and other native forests, especially considering the short time available for signing before it had to be tabled in Parliament.

The Place of the Herbarium in Modern Botany was the title of a most interesting lecture given to us in July by the Auckland Museum botanist, Mr. A. Orchard. One point that emerged was that it was important to have a representative collection of introduced weeds and garden escapes, and we were told that all contributions of such plants, with the necessary details of when and where found et. recorded, would be gratefully accepted. Members could usefully assist with this project.

It was good to hear that the Museum hopes eventually to have a reference collection of pressed plants, which will be available for use by the general public.

At the same meeting Mrs. Hynes brought along a plant for the specimen table which many of us had not seen before, namely Peperomia tetraphylla, which has the leaves in whorls of 4 and the flower spikes of which are terminal, in contrast to the better known P. urvilleana which has alternate leaves and axillary flowers. It was found in 1972 at Pakaraka, 12 miles east of Kaikohe, by Mr. J. Rawlings. The species had previously been recorded only from around the East Cape area - in Allen the distribution is given as North Island, coastal to lowland forest, often a low epiphyte - East Cape district westward to L. Rotoehu.

I am sure that all our members will wish to join in sending our deepest sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Warren and family, after the recent tragic and sudden loss of their son-in-law.
