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and narrow, or short and narrow. The red blossoms too show differences, but all fill the air with honeysuckle sweetness. The red berries are quite attractive. Plants in the forest branch more and are often semi-prostrate.

This is a paradise for ferns. The filmy ferns, Hymenophyllum and Trichomanes are in profusion. The parsley fern, Botrychium ternatum var. dissectum is found in large colonies.

Mrs. E. Gower

#### HINTS ABOUT SOWING SEED.

Prepare your seed bed of light soil to allow the air to circulate. Have it well drained so that excessive moisture can escape; too much water is the cause of a large number of failures in germination, particularly with small seeds. Make the bed in as warm a place as possible, but if using heat to germinate seeds do not let it be above say 75° F. If the sun is going to dry out your soil too rapidly shade with a piece of hessian or similar material. Always sow seed thinly to allow a sturdy plant to develop. Avoid sowing seed too deep. A good rule, especially for fine seed is to cover to twice the depth of the seed. Do not water after the first watering if it can be avoided but should this be necessary use water the same temperature as the seed box.

D.A. McLaren, Propagator for W.C.C.

#### SCUTELLARIA NOVAEZEALANDIAE

A note from Mr. Beddie tells of a visit on a January evening to Mr. B.C. Aston's garden in Karori. The main objective was to see Scutellaria novaezealandiae in flower. This little labiate herb, endemic to the Sounds Nelson Botanical District, is hardly ever seen in cultivation, though its dainty white flowers and characteristic Turk's cap fruits make it an attractive garden plant apart from its rarity interest. Members will recollect a small

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