

on other kinds of soil. Tetragonia trigyna usually a strictly coastal plant, unexpectedly appeared 15 miles inland. In the mixed scrub of the wetter South-east gullies Fuchsia scandens might be specially mentioned, and also the abundance of mistletoes - Loranthus, Tupeia, and Korthalsella.

Introduced plants, many of them generally considered weeds, contribute useful food for stock, or like Sedum acre help to maintain the enormous rabbit population. Some, however are a great menace to the prosperity of the district and amongst these first place is held by Nassella trichotoma a South American tussock grass that, profiting from the burning programme of farmers since it was accidentally introduced many years ago has ousted the native tussocks from thousands of acres. Whereas native tussocks properly managed give good grazing this intruder is unpalatable to stock and renders useless the areas that it dominates. Interesting botanically because of its wonderful ability to spread, mostly by light wind-borne seeds, and to colonise new areas, it threatens to bring financial ruin in its train.

A species of Stipa or needle grass, equally valueless to stock but luckily less widespread here, has a further unpleasant habit of burrowing its pointed seed not only into the ground where it might have a chance to germinate but also into sheep skins, damaging them for leather making. Sweet briar, carried about in wool or by birds is a weed that usually does not find favour with farmers but in this district is rather highly valued because rabbits have a fancy for jam made from the hips and can easily be induced to take poison in this medium.

Those who braved one of the wettest nights of a phenomenally wet spring to hear Mr. Healy's tale will remember many interesting points omitted here and will regret that there were not more members present to see the fine set of pressed specimens.

NATIVE FLOWER SHOW IN AUCKLAND.

In spite of rather short notice nearly twenty members contributed specimens to be sent for exhibition under the Society's name at the tenth Spring Native Flower Show, a memorial to Mr. Cheeseman, organized by the Auckland Botanical Society and opened at the War Memorial Museum on 27th September. More than 85 species were represented in our box and most of them were labelled. Miss Cranwell, botanist at

the Museum, in a letter to our secretary says "Please convey to your Council and members the hearty thanks of the Auckland Botanical Society and the Museum for your wonderful exhibit. This arrived in good time and in perfect order.... We arranged the exhibit on a long table with a platform in four tiers above it. The specimens looked very well indeed against a cream background and were greatly admired.... Miss Katie Pickmere, whom you all know and Mr. W. Newport of the State Forest Service, took a special interest in displaying your specimens."

A 16-page catalogue prepared for the show lists the principal sections including competitive school displays, individual children's exhibits of posies, berry foods of birds, pressed specimens, paintings and sketches; uses of native plant fibres, medicinal, foods, seaweeds, Lycopodium powder, timber trees, dye plants, the latter supplemented by demonstrations of spinning wool dyed with native barks and lichens; flower and foliage arrangements, street planting model, lava fields and salt marsh exhibits, cushion plants.

Attendances of over 9,000 in the first four days are a measure of the popularity of this annual exhibition and reflect great credit on those responsible for the organization.

DYES FROM NATIVE PLANTS.

Cards of wool dyed with native plants (lichens, bark, etc.) were exhibited at the October meeting. Mrs. Hutchinson of Rissington who made these samples has published a pamphlet called "Plant Dyeing". Orders may be left with Miss King. Price 2/-, proceeds of sale for the Napier Red Cross.

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Renunculus lobulatus was in full flower at Otari on September 24th. The first buds of R. nivicola had opened too but it did not reach its full glory until the last few days of October. In that week also R. lyallii was blooming in the Botanical Gardens. On Butterfly track on September 13th dainty flowers of Cyrtostylis oblonga graced the tops of many clay banks. Pterostylis graminea in similar places showed a complete range from early bud to almost mature fruit. Young seeds of micro were barely a quarter of an inch long and nearly every liverwort was fertile.