

of showy purple flowers, standing up well on their long tubes, peep above the surface of the ground. The plant belongs to the broomrape family, rather closely related to the snapdragons, which in flower structure it resembles. How this newcomer from southern Europe reached its present home on the Tutira willows we do not yet know. Fortunately we need feel no alarm at its presence.

H. H. Allan.

A NEW ZEALANDER IN CAIRO

Notes from Sgt. K. Given, on active service in Egypt.

The land of the pyramids harbours much of interest for those who would investigate beyond these famous structures; nor is it necessary to seek very far.

I paid a visit to the Cairo Zoological Gardens, and found them to be situated in most picturesque environment. Trees and shrubs from all tropical countries were present, many of them bearing names.

New Zealand is represented by the Kauri, a small specimen of which was sent from Kew six years ago. It is now 10ft. high, and is thriving. Probably as the result of strange environment, the tree is not characteristic, being less symmetrical, and the leaves differing slightly in shape and size. Agathis robusta, an Australian, is also present. It has much longer leaves than our kauri, and its wood is used for decking in boat building.

Among other genera prominent in New Zealand, Pittosporum is present in P. tobira, which much resembles our P. umbellatum. A vitex is also present. It rather resembles our puriri, V. lucens, except that the wood is not knotted, and the leaves are lighter in colour and not so wrinkled. Eugenia montana, which rather resembles our E. maire is there. Leguminosae are abundant, and Sophora pendula is not far removed from the kowhai.

Conium maculatum has a 6ft. circle to itself - this circle not however to be regarded as a halo by those who know how apt this poisonous hemlock is to run riot in New Zealand.

Feijoa sellowiana, Ginkgo biloba, Lagunaria patersonii, Nerium oleander, Kennedyia ovata, and Tecoma capensis are all present and in good form.

These are but a few of the comprehensive collection to be found in the gardens; which goes to show that given a drink, the desert soil is most accommodating.