

working gardening group. I would be willing to take an active part in this section of the Society were it to materialize.

Mrs W.W. Samson, 54, Dundas St., Seatoun.  
(Members are invited to send comments or to communicate directly with Mrs Samson.)

#### VISIT TO BUCHANAN'S BUSH. 6:6:42.

In the depths of winter, six ardent members of the Society paid a visit to Mr Buchanan's bush at Haywards.

As we walked through the sunny valley, we were thrilled to pick out some early scarlet rata in bloom. Just nearby was a patch of swamp which formed an excellent habitat for a stand of pale-barked pukateas, (Laurelia novae-zealandiae). We collected some of their feathery seeds with the idea of attempting to grow them.

Typical rain forest grew all along the sides of the stream we followed as far as the waterfall. One of the commonest shrubs along the path was Melicope simplex, while it was interesting to notice the drooping half-withered appearance of the rata, Latrosideros colensoi, as compared with its fresher and more erect relation, M. hypericifolia.

An unusual sight was that of a strong plant of Hebe salicifolia growing as an epiphyte on a tree-fern.

It was damp underfoot, and mosses, liverworts and fungi were abundant. As much of the Jew's ear fungus was collected as possible, so that it could be tried out as a delicacy in soup. (Found to be harmless and almost tasteless.--Ed.) One of the most attractive lichens was Peltigera dolichorhiza, grey in colour with black, finger-nail-like fertile heads.

J. Hillary.

#### PLANT DYING.

A second and enlarged and illustrated edition of Mrs Hutchinson's pamphlet on "Plant Dyeing" is now available. A booklet by "London Pride" deals also with home dyeing with plant materials, and an article in the September number of the Journal of Agriculture offers advice on the same topic. Many would-be dyers are not able to collect their own plant materials. Would any members offer to make bulk collections of such things as Coprosma twigs or lichens (certain species of each only) for distribution to deserving cases?