

THE GARDENING CIRCLE.

The first sale of native seeds in aid of the Bulletin Fund was on July 27th, 1943. Within the year 70 packets of seed have been sold at 1/- a packet, totalling £3.10.0. This is indeed heartening when it is realized that this seed is for cultivation in gardens. A donation from one of the members brings our Fund up to £5.5.8.

It has been suggested that these seed packets be reduced in price; and this suggestion has a lot in its favour; we read recently of immense clubs for girls in England that had been built of subscriptions of 2d.- no higher amount ever being asked. The Gardening Circle is thinking of giving this idea a trial, and has great expectations! Less seed can go to the packet, as in two cases we have heard of our packets of *Arthropodium* yielding over 100 healthy seedlings. Fewer seeds of the rarer plants go to a packet except perhaps the red and pink manukas which don't always give such gratifying results.

The Circle wishes to thank town and country members who have given and sent generous gifts of seed, collected when on trips or from their gardens.

In Bulletin No.9, Dr. Allan says of New Zealand Coprosmas "that this genus will surely one day be regarded as horticulturally valuable for its ornamental berries". A bush of the common *C. robusta* was seen in a garden this winter having many leaves of beautiful autumn colours, varying from deep red and scarlet to orange, yellows and greens -- it was sheltered from the southerly winds; another, also sheltered, although having only yellow and green leaves, bore hundreds of green yellow and orange berries in mid-winter. *C. lucida* will be worth trying too, if it proves to be as showy in cultivation as on country hillside this year. Dr. Cockayne, in his book "The Cultivation of New Zealand Plants" (page 21) classes *C. grandifolia*, *lucida*, and *robusta* as shrubs that should occupy an important position in our cities.

Members who attended the Field day at the Botanical Gardens saw the possibilities of the New Zealand passion flower, which Dr. Cockayne says can be grown from cuttings. We saw also a pink and white manuka, still looking very beautiful, and our leader Mr. Stirling, told us that it and other trees were hardly over without blossom. On mid-winter day two members saw *Leptospermum koutleyi* in full bloom at Salamanca Road, just opposite the University entrance, its large soft-toned pink blossoms making an entrancing picture. One member has also seen *Olinthus puniceus*, kaka-beak, trained against a wall, showing its scarlet flowers to the best advantage, and, passing the news, has encouraged another member to train kaka-beak in this manner. So it does seem possible to have some gay colour in our native gardens in winter -- with careful planning.

The Gardening Circle will endeavour to procure native plants, slips and seed for any member or non-member. For the benefit of country members and others who cannot attend meetings, the following list gives an indication of the seeds in stock. Where a species is marked * though there is still seed for sale, further contributions to replenish stocks would be welcome.

Arthropodium cirrhatum, * *A. candidum*, *Brachycome thomsoni* (Stewart Is.), *Coliasia monroi*, *C. lindseyi*, *Colmisia* mixed, *Carmichaelia oregoniana*, *C. australis*, *Cortaria angustissima*, *Cordylone australis*, *C. pumilio*, * *Corokia cotoneaster*, * *C. macrocarpa*, *Olinthus puniceus*, * *Colsonia physaloides*, *Coprosma cunninghamii* (i.e. *C. robusta* x *C. propinqua*), *Olemaia affoliata*, *Entoloba arborescens*, * *Hibiscus diversifolius*, *Linum monogynum*, *Leptospermum nichollsi*, *L. koutleyi*, red manuka, and pink from Kaitiaki, *Hibertia ixiolides*, *Meryta sinclairii*, *Pittosporum* from East Cape District, many-flowered mumbols, cream and scented, *Pachystegia insignis*, *Potentilla anserina*, * *Rhabdothamnus solandri*, *Rhapalostylis sapida* (nikau palm), *Senecio* Alfred Atkinson, *Senecio hectori*, *S. perdicoides*, *Sophora microphylla*.