

A TARANAKI GARDEN.

(In response to a request from the Garden Circle, Mr. M. G. Maxwell has sent this description, necessarily brief, of his garden near Opuake. He states "I am very eager to exchange plants and have a considerable number of hand for this purpose". In an alphabetical list of the 320 species he has growing he marks nearly 200 as available for exchange. In return he seeks those arborescent species he still lacks, and the less common Coprosmas in particular.)

In the first case I have several acres of plantations for timber purposes, including Pinus radiata, Cupressus macrocarpa, and various Eucalypts.

With the provision of shelter from winds these do remarkably well here, the pines making an average vertical growth of approximately 6 ft. per annum for the first 5 to 10 years, the eucalypts (fastigata, obliqua, regnans, saligna, botryoides, blacklandii, etc.) as much as 10 ft. per annum for the first few years.

There is a driveway several chains long on one side of which is a belt devoted to natives, the earliest plantings being over 30 years old. It contains about 300 different species, and is now beginning to assume the appearance of natural bush, except for the absence of tall trees, and the inclusion of such a large number of species. All planted here are thriving splendidly, though filmy ferns and others requiring moisture-laden atmosphere are not included. Ferns such as Gleichenia flabellata, Todea barbara, Aiantum formosum, Loxsoma cunninghamii, all the tree ferns, and many of the Aspleniums are growing most luxuriantly.

Reproduction by seed of many species is taking place on a large scale, notably Litsaea calicaris, Dodonaea viscosa, Entolea arborescens, Hoheria populnea, Corynocarpus laevigata, Geniostoma ligustrifolium, Melicope ternata, Myrtus Ralpii, various Pittosporums, Olearias, Melicytus, Coprosmas, Nothopanax, Pseudopanax, etc.

Of exotics there are some fine large specimens of River's copper beech, oaks, and magnolias (grandiflora, campbellii (not yet flowering) conspicua (true, pure white and very fine), parviflora, stellata, obovata, discolata, etc.). These flower splendidly and are a beautiful sight. Rhododendrons and azaleas (including mollis type) do well, and when seen in flower in association with copper beech, coloured acers, prunus etc. are really glorious.

Most of the Lilliums do well and multiply freely. Australian natives, including many of the acacias and prostrantheras, grow probably much faster than they do in their native habitat.

Amongst the bamboos, the giant green grows up to 50 feet high and 3 inches in diameter, this growth occupying about 10 weeks. A black-stemmed bamboo which flowered a good many years ago and as a result nearly died out is slowly re-establishing.

Amongst creepers and climbers pride of place goes to an unusually large Wisteria multijuga, very floriferous, with racemes 3 ft. and more in length. Solanum wendlandii covering one wall of a shed is also a fine sight when in flower.

Conspicuous among trees in full bloom in July are Acacia decurrens var. normalis, large trees, colour very rich, and quite one of the finest wattles, and Frunus both single white and double pink a mass of flowers.

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THE VERONICA - LIKE SPECIES OF NEW ZEALAND.

Under this title in the Records of the Dominion Museum (vol. 1, pages 228-231, October 1944) Dr. Oliver provides the new generic name PARAHEBE for the New Zealand species previously referred (in Cheeseman's Manual for instance) to the division Euveronica. The type species of the new genus is Parahebe catarractae, and the 14 other species attributed to this genus are listed (e.g. P. bidwillii, P. hookeriana, P. lyallii). Hooker's genus PYGMAEA is revived for the three small species with 5 or 6 lobed corolla, i.e. P. ciliolata, P. pulvinaris and P. thomsoni.