

UNUSUAL HOSTS FOR MISTLETOE.

Several gardeners have had success in establishing mistletoe on trees in their gardens, mainly on indigenous species. Some of these parasites are rather prone to establish themselves without man's assistance on exotic trees. The small-flowered mistletoe (Loranthus micranthus) is recorded on pears and plum trees "in great abundance" at the southern end of Lake Taupo. It may be seen also in some valleys in the Nelson district on sweetbrier. This district would appear to offer special opportunities, for Cheeseman records the korukoru (Elytranthe colensoi) on "pears, plums, and on Robinia pseudacacia" at Motueka. Mr. C. M. Smith draws attention to the presence of this species on the alder (Alnus glutinosa) and oak (Quercus robur) at the Marsden Estate, Stoke. Druids please take note, for "The Druids" (for so they call their Divinours, Wise Men, and the state of their Clergy) esteemonthing in the world more sacred than mistletoe, and the tree whercon it breedeth so it be on the oke".

Have our members any further records?

H. H. Allan.

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WHAT GROWS IN A DITCH?

Between Lakes Papaitonga (Buller) and Horowhenua, where once thick forest held sway, now small dairy farms occupy the land. A deep drain passing through four of these farms on its way to Lake Horowhenua is cleaned out regularly each August along part of its length, and some of the outside clay face is sliced off. At this time we can collect more than we need of young ferns, especially from the east bank where there is little direct sun, and that only from the west. This year for instance, we collected the following species, from sporlings to eight inches high: Polystichum richardi, Dryopteris pennigera, D. glabella, Elechnum fluviatile, B. capense, Polystichum vestitum, Athyrium umbrosum, Leptolepia novae-zealandiae, and, most surprising of all, Doodia media with sori on the fronds. This last we had found before in only one place, in bush at Ohau, miles from our ditch. Would the spores lie in the soil here from the days of the forest, ready to germinate when they are brought nearer to the light by the slicing off of the outer soil? Nearly every year there is something new, but this year there was no Pteris macilenta, a species we have always had before. The small-leaved twining Fuchsia, Meliccytus ramiflorus, Pittosporum eugenioides, and Fuchsia excorticata may top the bank. In a nearby part of the same ditch that is not cleaned very often there are Cyathoa dealbata, Dicksonia squarrosa, a few only, young plants, nice patches of the small-leaved climbing Fuchsia, Meliccytus ramiflorus, Muohlenbeckia complexa, Haloragis sp., Asplenium flaccidum, three species of Elechnum, Pteris tremula and P. macilenta var., and some Polystichums.

E. C. Parsons, Wairarapa, 3.1.45.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION to the Society: In Wellington 7s.6d., reduced to 5s.0d. if paid by November 30th.

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