

THE LODER CUP AWARD FOR 1944.

We are proud to count as one of our country members the winner of the Loder Cup for 1944, Mr. Norman Potts. There must be few growers of native plants who have not profited directly or indirectly from Mr. Potts's efforts over many years in collecting, propagating and distributing the choicer species of the North Island flora. Any visitor to Opatiki can see the example he has set in planting up odd unused corners about the town, a strip along the river bank, the garden of the historic "Volkmer" church, and the school grounds.

A more ambitious project is the rehabilitation of the Hukitai Domain, a bush remnant of some 11 acres. During his 12 years as Chairman of the Domain Board he has pursued a policy of eliminating plants of the commoner species as he can replace them with more interesting ones, and of planting for special effects, as in the king-fern gully, or to frame a vista over the valley below. Good legible labels announce the species names, and a careful record has been kept of the origin of all plants brought in. So, in place of a cattle-tramped scrap of bush, a reserve only in name, the district now has a delightful and popular picnic place, with carefully planned paths leading to the best vantage points, and names enough to satisfy any curiosity. It is at the same time an experimental plot where plants propagated from seeds of known origin are grown on for comparison with their parents, and where species rare under natural conditions can be multiplied and preserved.

Mr. Potts is known also for discovering and distributing the charming little bronze-leaved *Coriaria pottsiana*; he has an expert knowledge of the difficult genus *Coprosma*, based on observations on cultivated plants of the more puzzling species in his own garden; and he has long been a generous contributor to research workers, to public parks, and to private gardens wherever New Zealand plants are featured.

A well-merited recognition of this work is the award of the Loder Cup, donated by the late Gerald W. Loder "to encourage the protection and cultivation of the incomparable flora of the Dominion".

THE LATE PROFESSOR T. L. LANCASTER, M.Sc., F.L.S.

By the death in April last of Thomas Leonard Lancaster, Auckland University College lost the head of its large and popular Botany Department. Professor Lancaster was a Victoria College graduate and had all the true Wellingtonian's affection for the Tararua's and their environs. He had done a good deal of tramping with camera and tripod, and through his photographs, freely used as wall pictures and lantern slides, Auckland students through the last thirty years have been made familiar with the flora and vegetation of the southern part of the Island. In lecture room and laboratory, he made a point of drawing his illustrative material from local plants in order to bridge the inevitable gap between imported text books and the students' personal experience and observation. As a further adjunct to his teaching he established in the College grounds a fine collection of native shrubs and trees; many a past student remembers with pleasure those wintery mornings when, after a sharp frost, the practical class would be taken in the sunny garden. This arboretum and others built up about Auckland during Professor Lancaster's term as City Botanist will long give pleasure to University folk and townspeople alike, and form a lasting memorial to a true plant-lover.

All who knew Professor Lancaster will extend sympathy to his wife and student daughter in their bereavement.

L.S.M.