

LODER CUP AWARD, 1945.

Mr. W. B. Brockie, N. D. H. (N. Z.) was awarded the Loder Cup for 1945; Our Society was one of the bodies that submitted Mr. Brockie's name for consideration, and members who were not present at the meeting at which this matter was brought up may be interested in the reasons we gave for recommending Mr. Brockie as a candidate.

1. For his part in the establishment and successful development of the Cockayne Memorial Garden opened in 1938 in the Christchurch Botanical Gardens. As a demonstration of what New Zealand plants can do in cultivation, this must have inspired many thousands of visitors who view it each year. For the student, the well-grown carefully labelled plants provide valuable information. Records of behaviour and performance of plants in this garden add materially to existing knowledge of the species concerned.

2. For the publication in February, 1945, of a booklet on "New Zealand Alpines in Field and Garden". Fully illustrated with Mr. Brockie's own photographs of plants actually growing in the Cockayne Memorial Garden, this booklet takes to many who do not visit Christchurch, valuable information about the methods and results of cultivating one attractive and for the most part horticulturally neglected section of New Zealand plants.

3. For his exploration of comparatively little known or even unknown parts of the Canterbury mountains in search of new plants and species worthy of cultivation in gardens.

4. For his activities in growing native plants from seed and otherwise for distribution to enthusiasts in various parts of New Zealand, e.g. the collection of Hebes, each one from material from the type locality of the species, presented to Percy's Garden at Petone; seeds and plants distributed to members of the Levin Native Flora Club.

5. For personally encouraging others to take up floristic studies within his district, always with an eye to horticultural values of any finds made.

6. Special activities in relation to preservation of rare species in their native habitats, and some specialized studies on such species.

Mr. Brockie seems to have taken full advantage of the exceptional opportunities offered by his position in a public garden to further the objectives of the donor of the Loder Cup, 'To encourage the protection and cultivation of the incomparable flora of the Dominion'. An award to a person in such a position must almost certainly increase interest in other public gardens in the cultivation of New Zealand plants. For this reason, as well as for his personal worthiness, the Wellington Botanical Society nominates Mr. Brockie."

TRAMPERS FIND A NEW FUNGUS.

"From a point near Rikiorangi we climbed Mt. Maunganui via the long ridge between the Maungakotukutuku and Waikanae Rivers. We discovered a Hygrophorus (one of the large family of toadstools) of a particularly delicate shade of pale green, which, with the sun glinting on it from a slightly oblique angle gave a most beautiful effect. This specimen on being submitted to Dr. Cunningham of the Plant Research Bureau (Plant Diseases Division) was found to be unreported in either New Zealand or Australia; so here almost at our backdoor is vegetation which still awaits attention."

"Tararua Trumper", January, 1946, sent by Mrs. Samson.