

In North Auckland there are 1600 square miles of well-drained easy rolling land underlain by sedimentary rocks; of this 1100 square miles is podzolized (860 sq.miles strongly, 230 sq.miles weakly), while much of the remainder was dominated by coastal forest. This evidence alone suggests that when man came to New Zealand it was the kauri-podocarp species which were the aggressive ones. The power they possessed of depressing the fertility of the soil below the level at which the broad-leaved trees are vigorous competitors offset the latter's advantage in possessing shade-tolerant juvenile forms.

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ESMOND ATKINSON: ARTIST AND BOTANIST.

Esmond Atkinson will long be remembered by those who knew him and his work as one who loved the scenery of his country, and sought to preserve for us some glimpses of its beauties as he saw them through the eyes of an artist. Botanists too will continue to value the faithful drawings he made of plants of special interest, combining truth of detail with appreciation of form.

All will welcome the tribute to his memory edited by John L. Moore and reproduced in excellent style by A.H. and A.W. Reed. The book contains extracts from Atkinson's letters and reviews, 16 plates in colour, 15 in half-tone, and 6 botanical drawings. Those who know the scenes he depicted will be gladdened by the quietly appealing charm of "Waimakariri River", "Lake Taupo", "Cora Lynn", "Lake Brunner" and many another from the painter's gifted brush.

H.H.A.

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THE GARDENING CIRCLE.

A real inspiration for the coming year was given to gardening members who were fortunate enough to be present at the Society's lantern lecture evening given by Mr. George Simpson of Dunedin on February 21st.

These glimpses of some of our South Island mountains were entrancing, with their far flung riotous acres of natural flower garden. *Colmisias*, - miles of them; *Ranunculus Lyallii* and stone-loving *Buchananii* - two of the loveliest. *Veronicas* or *Parakebos*, *Curisias* and showy *Aciphyllia*; beautiful carpets and cushions of *Raoulia*, *Phyllachne*, *Drapetes*, *Pygmaea* - all of these plants and many others massed together in places, were gardens indeed. Perhaps as we learn to understand the needs of our beautiful and unique mountain plants, they too may have a place in the home gardens of their own country and cause much astonishment and delight. That it is possible to grow many of these mountain plants on the lowlands, with care and the right conditions, has already been proved by gardening botanists, such as Dr. Cockayne, Mr. Scott-Thomson, Mr. Brockie and Mr. Simpson himself.

Many *Colmisias* we know can be grown on the lowlands, and Mr. Simpson told us that *Ranunculus Lyallii* could be successfully grown even in hot dry country, with broken stone placed on the surface to prevent the sun drying the roots.

We are very grateful to these botanical enthusiasts for the privilege of seeing these really magnificent slides, together with much useful information regarding their growth and the general state of the high country, especially when we realise the difficulties under which these pictures are taken.

We have much fresh seed available just now - *Colmisias*, *Xoroma*, *Libertia*, *Meryta Sinclairii*, *Leucopogon Fraseri*, *Brachycome Thomsoni*, *Glenatis afoliata*, and *indivisa*, *Chordospartium Stevensonii*, *Microtis uniflora*, *Gastrodia Cunninghamii* - to mention just a few.

Mrs. W.W. Samson.

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