

## SCIENCE CONGRESS.

The Sixth Science Congress organized by the Royal Society of New Zealand was held in Wellington, 20th - 23rd May. Botanists from many parts of New Zealand attended and all members of the Congress were invited by circular to be guests at our evening meeting on May 19th. This took the form of a reception at which some 70 persons were present.

For the entertainment of visitors a number of the more interesting and attractive local plants were displayed. Dr. Morice and her helpers set out a fine array of coastal plants, including one impressive mat of Coprosma propinqua quite four feet in diameter and less than a foot thick: the rootstock, continuous with the single dwarf trunk, had, by some means not easy to picture, been severed some inches below the ground surface without injury to the mat itself. Dr. Cone and a group from Wallaceville each brought a large collection of beautiful fungi, described elsewhere. A bowl of living seaweeds, arranged by Miss Nancy Adams, was lit from below to show the shape and colour of the floating fronds.

A trophy from a recent foray on Stewart Is. was Raculia goveni collected on the summit of Mt. Anglem by our foundation member, Mr. Wm. Martin: the specific name commemorates P. Goyen, an ardent collector of the eighties.

Senecio Alfred Atkinson was brought from its birthplace at York Bay by Miss Evaline Moore, together with twigs of its probable parents, S. hectori and S. perdicoides.

Members who came from a distance included Mrs. M. M. Martin from North Auckland, Mr. Wm. Martin from Dunedin, Mr. and Mrs. Boyce from Foxton, Mrs. Duguid from Levin, Dr. Mayer from Christchurch.

At the Congress, Section C, Botanical Sciences, was of most interest to our members, of whom 17, past or present, delivered papers on a variety of topics, viz.:-

- Dr. Oliver: Botany in Post-War New Zealand.
- Dr. Newman: The Place of Ferns and Seed Plants in Classification.
- Mr. A. J. Healy: Evolution of the Alien Flora of New Zealand.
- Miss Molesworth (Auckland Museum): T. F. Cheeseman and the Making of a Great Herbarium.
- Mr. Zotov: Forest Deterioration in the Tararua due to Deer and Opossum.
- Dr. Allan: The Ecological Aspects of Wild Hybrids in New Zealand.
- Mr. W. F. Harris and Miss Filmer: Botanical Aspects of Hay Fever in Wellington.
- Miss Mason: Some Records of Stations of Indigenous Plants.
- Mr. Poole: Nazi Influence on Forest Administration in Germany.
- Dr. Blair: Ecological Studies with Soil Fungi.
- Mr. Matthews: Home Gardeners -- the Hope and Fear of Horticulture.
- Mrs. Boyce: Relative Dominance of Grain Weight in Wheat.
- Miss Moore: Marine Algal Provinces of New Zealand.
- Mr. Wm. Martin: The Bryophytes of Stewart Island.
- Miss Crawford: A Phytoplankton Season in Cook Strait.
- Miss Peebles: Some Preliminary Notes of a Study on New Zealand Species of the Genus Sophora.
- Mr. G. L. Adkin, in the Geological Section, gave papers on natural artesian springs, and on the Tararua Range.

Other titles likely to be of special interest to our members were:- Recent Ecological Studies in Silver Beech Forests, by Mr. J. Holloway; Results of a Preliminary Survey of the Pathology of Nothofagus menziesii in Woodlaw State Forest, Southland (with very fine illustrations) by Mr. G. B. Rawlings; Some Results from Experiments in Hybridization among Gelmisiae, by Mr. W. A. Thomson.

Summaries of most papers appeared in the official programme, and either abstracts or papers in full will be published in the Proceedings of the Congress.