

OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1948-1949, ELECTED JULY, 1948.

PRESIDENT: Mr. A. L. Poole.

VICE-PRESIDENTS: Prof. H. D. Gordon, Miss D. A. Crawford.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Dr. G. Cone, Dr. I. Morice, Miss V. Norman,  
Mr. C. McCann, Mr. A. P. Druce.

HON. TREASURER: Miss M. M. Johnston, 16 Matai Road, Hataitai.

HON. SECRETARY: Miss A. Hutson, C/- Botany Division, Scientific &  
Industrial Research Dept., 8 The Terrace, Wellington,  
C.1.

The Council has appointed Mr. A. P. Druce to be Editor of Bulletins following this one.

BULLETIN RESERVE FUND.

We wish to thank Mr. and Mrs. I. D. Parsons, Mr. R. D. Cresswell, Mrs. Stickells, Mrs. M. Hickman, Mr. N. Potts, Mr. R. Hair, Miss E. Johnson, and Mr. M. G. Maxwell for their contributions to the Bulletin Reserve Fund. Their donations amounted to £2. 4. 9. The sales of native seeds by Mrs. Samson amount to £3. 0. 0. The Bulletin Reserve Fund benefits this year to the extent of £5. 4. 9, bringing the total to £25. 9. 7.

COMMENTS FROM AN EARLY VICE-PRESIDENT.

Mr. F. S. Pope, one of the Society's first Vice-Presidents (1939-41) now lives at 4, Maleme Avenue, Belmont, Auckland. He writes to say how our Society's work and its bulletins impress him as he enters his 80th year of age. "New Zealand must continue to be, to a rapidly increasing extent, one of the world's main sources of soil products, and also one of its principal resorts for recreational travel; therefore botany and botanists have a most important part to play in its maintenance and development. That being so, I feel that the Society can do a great work in stimulating the zeal of its members in a large variety of ways, and moreover that it has made an excellent beginning in the performance of that work. The Bulletins in particular strike me as being remarkably good. I am not competent to criticise them botanically; but I can congratulate all concerned upon the good style in which they are written, some passages being of distinct literary, and even poetical, merit, and the consistently correct spelling of the botanical names being a pleasing feature throughout. If I may make a small suggestion, it would be that, for the sake of the occasional layman reader, more use should be made of vernacular names, not, of course, instead of the scientific names, but in addition to them. May abundant success attend the work of the Society!"

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THE VEGETATION OF THE KAIMANAWAS. Mr. N. Elder, 17. 3. 48.

To the west of the Kaimanawas lie the Rangipo desert and the fern-covered slopes above Lake Taupo; to the north the Kaingaroa Plains; to the east the forested Ahimanawa and Kaweka Ranges and to the south the tussock of the Ngamatea Plateau and the Inland Patea. Meteorological information is inadequate. Poronui Station on the north-east boundary has an average rainfall of nearly 80". To the south along the Taihape road the rainfall is about 40". The plants are an unreliable guide to rainfall as the whole area has been blanketed with pumice and this frequently has a determining influence on the composition and type of vegetation. Access is easiest from north-east or south-west and the first trips were made diagonally in that direction following parallel natural routes. Later trips across the grain of the country sampled a wider range of habitats.

Podocarp-broadleaf forest is present in any strength only on the slopes