

gonifolius shows great variation in leaf size and shape and the related *P. suboblongus* seems to do likewise.

P. pectinatus, L., (the New Zealand form), is recorded from several new stations: Lake Kaikokopu (Huniu, Himitungi), R. Mason, 12/3/48; Lake Koputara, R. Mason, 12/3/48; Castlepoint, V. D. Zotov! 24/3/45, R. Mason 6/5/48; Lake Ellesmere, R. A. Wilson! 1931, (Lakeside) R. Mason 19/2/48, (Kaituna) 20/2/48; Washdyke, R. Mason, 16/2/48, May 1948, 26/2/49; Lake Wainono, R. Mason, 26/4/48.

RUPPIACEAE

W. A. Setchell has shown (Proc. Cal. Acad. Sci. 4th series 25: 18) that Linnaeus's two species, *Ruppia maritima* and *R. spiralis*, have been confused by many later writers. Our New Zealand plant, with elongated spiral peduncles, is *R. spiralis*, L.

(Some other new records of water plants will be published in Bulletin No. 22.—Ed.)

Some Australian Plants

To an audience of about thirty members at the meeting on June 20, Dr. J. T. Salmon apologized for changing the subject of his talk from plants of New Zealand to those of Australia. He said that not being a botanist he had felt diffident about talking to botanists on plants of their own country, but now that he saw Professor Gordon among his listeners he wondered if he should not have stuck to New Zealand plants after all. However, there was no such doubt in the minds of his audience when they saw his glorious coloured slides of Australian flowers. The Geraldton wax plant, kangaroo paws, yellow and red gums some with flowers as big as saucers, a red bottle-brush, dwarf banksia, cycads and grass-trees are a few of the many which delighted the eye. Wattles were represented by the brilliant yellow South Australian wattle and an enormous golden wattle tree. The flame tree against a blue sky made a very pleasing picture. Photographs of the Sydney Botanical Gardens showed a great massing of colour in the beds. Of these the show of azaleas was particularly outstanding. Too soon the delight of form and colour came to an end, but leaving us with the knowledge if we did not have it already that Dr. Salmon is not only a scientist but an artist also. —I.M.M.

Vegetation and Man

On March 21, Miss J. Sansom, who is in New Zealand on a Goldsmiths' Scholarship and is at present studying the ecology of some of the beech forest on the eastern side of the Rimutakas, spoke of the influence of man on the vegetation of Great Britain. Her detailed summary of the changes that have taken place from about 9000 B.C. up to recent times was both interesting and instructive. She pointed

out that in Great Britain, with their long history of continued invasion, settlement, conquest, re-settlement and so on, the accompanying economic structure had so modified the face of the country that in very few places were they able to see virgin plant communities. Isolated pine forests in the Highlands of Scotland, coastal salt marshes and sand dunes and other examples did exist, but most of these had been thoroughly studied.

Miss Sansom said that the factor which led her to choose New Zealand for her studies was the relative absence of human modification of a great deal of our country. But of course we are all aware that although large areas remain unchanged by man directly, most of the remaining vegetation is to a greater or lesser extent modified by animals liberated by man. Changes brought about by these animals will doubtless become increasingly apparent.

Torlesse Range

Following the business of the Annual General Meeting on July 18, Dr. Oliver described the plants growing on the Torlesse Range. Everyone who has been across to the West Coast from Christchurch will have seen these bold mountains rising up from the Canterbury Plains beyond Springfield. By the time the nor'westers have reached this last range of the Southern Alps, they have dropped most of their moisture. Mountain beech clothes some of the lower slopes of the range, mainly on the eastern side. The forest is broken by huge shingle-slides and there is little undergrowth. Tussock, scrub (mainly dracophyllum) and screes cover the rest of the mountains. The scree plants, specimens and pictures of which were shown by Dr. Oliver, are of especial interest, and we were glad to hear that Mr. F. Fisher of Christchurch has been studying them in detail in their natural habitats over the past few years.

BULLETIN RESERVE FUND

Donations to the fund, amounting to £4/12/6, have been gratefully received from: Mr. A. D. Beddie, Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Druce, Mr. S. Duncan, Mrs. Hickman, Mr. M. Nankivell, Mr. and Mrs. I. D. Parsons and Mr. A. L. Poole. Mrs. Samson raised £2 by the sale of seeds. The fund now stands at £32/2/1, £2 of the amount donated this year having been spent on illustrations for the Bulletin.

Field Trips

MAR. 5: MISSES JOHNSON'S GARDEN AND
BUTTERFLY CREEK

This was one of Wellington's magnificent blue and white days, the journey to the Eastern Bays being exhilarating in itself. After arriving at the Misses Johnson's garden, we made a tour of this interesting mixture of native and exotic plants and vegetables, seeing figs, lemons,