

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,

grapes and other fruits. There was a long trellis closely covered with *Parsonsia heterophylla* which in late spring or summer is a mass of sweet-scented white flowers. The charming *Hibiscus trionum* was spreading in many places in the garden. Grown from seed purchased from the Bulletin Seed Fund the plants are now supplying large quantities of seed to the Fund. On a bank devoted entirely to native plants *Mazus radicans* seemed very much at home and had many lilac flowers starring the patch of closely matted leaves.

After enjoying lunch in this garden, we set out through the beech forest for the ever fascinating Eastern Hills. Some of us did not reach Butterfly Creek as we were too intrigued with the orchids we found amongst the beeches. We saw two large patches of *Earina autumnalis* growing on the ground, the air being heavy with perfume. A handsome seeding plant of *Sarcochilus adversus* was found growing on a beech tree. On the edge of a bank, still under beech trees, was a stand of seeding *Gastrodia cunninghamii* where a year before, earlier in the season, some of us had seen dozens of this orchid, spotted with purple, in full bloom and emitting most delicious perfume. *Prasophyllum nudum* (rufum) was found too on the bank but more in the open. Most entrancing were the glimpses of blue water and blue distant hills, and the two harbour islands seen through the beeches on this hazy, lazy day. Those members who went on to the Creek reported striking displays of scarlet supplejack berries, and the general enchantment of the bush.
—M.P.S.

MAY 7: BELMONT TRIG

Leader: Miss A. HUTSON

Five members of the Society met at the Petone Railway Crossing and then followed the Korokoro Stream up the valley. After a pleasant walk through open country we came to the edge of the bush and soon after turned left and began to climb, sometimes coming out on fairly clear spurs with good views of the harbour from, to some members, a new angle. After lunch at the Trig we descended the clear hillside to Normandale and so home.

A list of 92 species seen was compiled. The following formed the wind-swept scrub on the summit of Belmont Trig: horopito (*Pseudowintera colorata*), *Nothopanax anomalum*, stinkwood (*Coprosma foetidissima*), *Coprosma rhamnoides*, putaputaweta (*Carpodetus serratus*), *Metrosideros diffusa*, *Polystichum vestitum*, *Paesia scaberula* and crown fern (*Belchnum discolor*).
—A.H.

Typographical error: Bulletin No. 20, p. 10, 8 lines from bottom, for "lilac sheen" read "lilac sheen".