

PLANTS FOR OTARI

The Otari Open-air Native Plant Museum was considerably enriched recently by gifts of plants from Mr. M. G. Maxwell of "Marumarunui," Opunake and from Mr. G. Simpson, Dunedin. The writer enjoyed Mr. and Mrs. Maxwell's kind hospitality for a few days and much of the time was spent in their extensive and beautiful garden, where the section devoted to the cultivation of native trees and shrubs is the chief feature. Mr. Maxwell has been an enthusiastic collector of native plants for many years, an enthusiasm matched by his liberality in sharing his treasures, for almost one hundred species have come to Otari from his garden. These include *Dracophyllum* 5 spp., *Olearia* 13 spp., *Coprosma* 8 spp., *Hebe* 8 spp., *Pittosporum* 5 spp., *Metrosideros* 4 spp., and ferns 14 spp. With very few exceptions the locality where each plant was originally collected is known.

Mr. Simpson's collection comprises plants and cuttings of 22 species and varieties of *Carmichaelia*, many of them from type material, and nineteen species and varieties of *Hebe*. Very few species are now required to complete the *Hebe* collection at Otari.

Mr. N. Potts, Opotiki, has sent numerous parcels of plants, and excellent collections have also been received from Miss Olive Allan (Stewart Island), Mr. H. Talbot (Springfield), Mr. G. Clarke (Christchurch), and Mr. J. Forbes (Waiau).

Coxella dieffenbachii. From Mr. A. W. Traill, Stewart Island, came a large package of *Coxella* seed gathered from plants which he has established on some of the small islands. The plants, over a hundred of them, were originally raised from seed grown at the Christchurch Botanic Gardens and, following a suggestion from the Native Plant Preservation Society, were sent to Mr. Traill with the object of preserving the species which, in its native habitat, Chatham Islands, is threatened with extinction. Mr. Traill reports that some self-sown seedlings are coming up round the plants that flowered and says, "Only some of the plants that were planted on islands where there are no deer grew really well. The others are still alive but no bigger than when I planted them. It appears that they need rich soil."

—W. B. Brockie

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Objects: To encourage the study of Botany in all its branches, and the New Zealand flora in particular; to create an interest in, and foster an appreciation of the native plants especially in the field; and to collect and disseminate knowledge and encourage the cultivation of native plants.