

berries freely. It should have been easy to check such points before publication.

Like some films, this book is definitely unsuitable for children. Only disappointment could come from any effort to identify the larger trees from it. The best recommendation to adults is to warn their friends against it. Under the circumstances it is perhaps a pity that the cover design is quite attractive, after the style of King Penguins. The price is 5/-. Cockayne and Phillips Turner's "The Trees of New Zealand" with 126 good photographs costs 7/6.

L. B. M.

Scrub Fire on Mt. Hikurangi

In December of last year I was fortunate enough to go with a small party on an ascent of Mt. Hikurangi (5,606 feet) in the East Cape District. From Ruatoria we travelled up the Tapu-waeroa Valley to Pakiharoa Station, where the actual climb began. At about 3,500 feet we left the cleared land and ascended the scree that has a special significance as being the type locality of *Coriaria pottsiiana*. We saw quite a bit of this small tutu but it was not as abundant as another small species, *C. plumosa*. From the top of the scree we followed the track that leads through the last few hundred feet of silver-beech forest to the scrub belt above.

The Manager of Pakiharoa had told us before we left that a scrub fire had occurred in the summer of 1947-48, but I was not prepared for anything like what we saw that day after leaving the bush. Almost the entire belt of about 500 feet had been burnt on the western end and southern side of the mountain. Everywhere the dead stems, mainly leatherwood (*Olearia colensoi*), were still standing, bleached and spiky, indicating that the fire had swept through dry litter, scorching rather than burning the shrubs. Only three of the original species were growing in any quantity: *Ranunculus insignis*, *Craspedia uniflora* var. and *Viola cunninghamii*. The rootstocks of these herbs had apparently survived the fire and sent up new shoots. In the upper part of the scrub belt particularly, the *Ranunculus* was growing in great abundance. The plants were up to two feet high and in full flower, so that from a distance the mountain sides were distinctly yellow. Needless to say deer are practically absent from this area—such growth would not be found in their presence.

But over wide areas, mostly below the level of the buttercups, there was little growing between the dead stems, the only plants that had come in on the loose bare soil being willow-herbs (*Epilobium* spp.), thistles, cudweeds (*Gnaphalium* spp.), catsear, etc. There was no sign of young leatherwood or other shrubby species. A small

tarn visited by previous parties was already partly filled with soil washed down from the surrounding slopes.

This note is placed on record so that anyone visiting Hikurangi in the future will be able to note the changes taking place over the years. Finally, it is remarkable that even though the scrub burnt for four days, both the snow-tussock above and the silver-beech forest below escaped serious damage.

A. P. DRUCE.

NEW RECORDS OF WATER PLANTS

R. MASON

Zanichellia palustris, L. Lake near Himitangi, V. D. Zotov! ; Lake Ellesmere, R. Mason, 20/2/48, (near Doyleston drain) 18/9/46; Washdyke Lagoon, R. Mason, 16/2/48, May 1948, October 1948, 25/2/49; Lake Wainono, R. Mason, 26/4/48.

Lepilaena bilocularis, T. Kirk. Lake Kohangapiripiri, Wellington, R. Mason, 29/5/48; Washdyke Lagoon, R. Mason, 16/2/48.

Myriophyllum robustum, Hook. f. Palmerston North, Racecourse Lagoon, R. Mason, 11/3/48.

Isoetes kirkii, A. Braun. Lake Katherine, George Sound, R. Mason, April 1949. Plants seen in the tarn on Henry Saddle (2,680 feet), between George Sound and Lake Te Anau, appeared to be similar to those in Lake Katherine but the water was too deep and cold to obtain specimens.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BULLETIN

One of the main functions of the Bulletin, apart from recording the activities of the Society, is the exchange of information among members. To that end, members, particularly country members, are invited to send in accounts of the plants and vegetation of areas with which they are familiar. Articles should preferably not exceed 2,500 words in length and may be accompanied by photographs or pen-and-ink drawings. Shorter articles—new records of plants, notes on cultivation, interesting discoveries or experiments—will also be welcomed.

Leaders of field excursions are asked to send in short accounts of their trips if they desire to have them placed on record in the Bulletin.

When using the common names of trees it is recommended that Cockayne and Turner ("The Trees of New Zealand") be followed, though there are a few cases where better-known names might well be substituted, e.g., kanuka for white tea-tree, five-finger for whauwhaupaku.