

out taking on the spherical form. Dixon, on page 249 of "Studies in the Bryology of New Zealand," says, "T. W. N. Beckett found it (*Echinosidium hispidum*) in balls or bunches growing detached from the soil in damp places in forests, where it had no doubt been scratched up by the woodhen or weka."

I have seen the same moss in this condition on the damp floor of a bush remnant at Moonshine in the Hutt Valley and again in Carter's Bush, Carterton. At Invercargill, many square yards of the forest floor at the Waihopai Scenic Reserve were covered with a loose mass of *Camptochaete ramulosa*, which in normal circumstances is always an epiphyte. The attenuated form and altered habit suggested it was growing quite well in this unattached state, and on revisiting the area a year later it was still there, green and healthy.

Again on Swampy Hill, I once disturbed a couple of blackbirds scratching up a large patch of *Thuidium laeviusculum*. On examination the plants were almost all detached from the soil. In order to see whether the moss continued to grow thus detached I visited the area some three months later and found the moss quite green, and still unattached though rhizoids had apparently been thrown out from many of the branch tips. Further investigation of this feature is desirable.

Recent Publications

- Seaweeds and their Uses*, by V. J. Chapman; Methuen and Co. Ltd.
English price, 25/-.
- Botanical Discovery in New Zealand; The Visiting Botanists*, by W. R. B. Oliver; Post Primary School Bulletin, Vol. 5, No. 2.
Government Printer, Wellington. 1/6.
- Mountains and Moorlands*, by W. H. Pearsall. Collins. 21/-.
- Botanical Investigations on Campbell Island*, by R. L. Oliver and J. H. Sorensen; Cape Expedition Series, Bulletin No. 7. D.S.I.R.
Government Printer, Wellington. 4/-.
- Castle Hill*, compiled by E. C. Richards. Simpson and Williams Ltd.,
Christchurch. 9/6.
- The Trees of New Zealand*, by L. Cockayne and E. Phillips Turner.
1950 edition. Government Printer, Wellington. 12/-.
- New Zealand Trees*, by J. W. Matthews. A. H. and A. W. Reed,
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- New Zealand Ferns*, by H. B. Dobbie; revised by M. Crookes.
Whitcombe and Tombs, Ltd. 40/-.