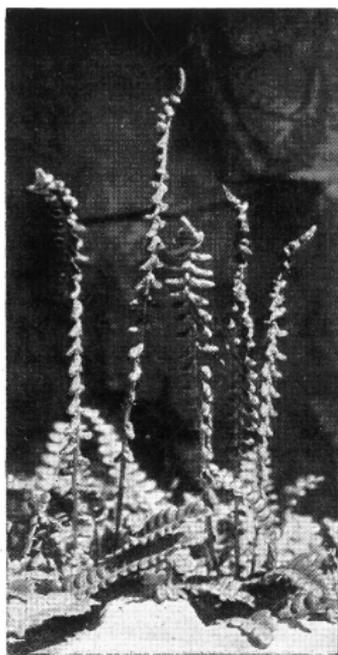


Otari Rock Garden

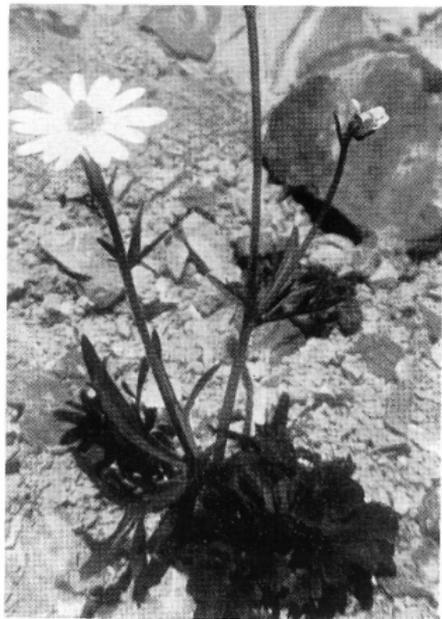
In the rock-garden at Otari, Wellington, a large number of New Zealand's smaller shrubs and flowers are being grown. They have been brought together from many parts of the country, including the outlying islands, so that everyone interested in native plants may see them close at hand. Labels are provided for each plant, the original place of collection being given as well as the botanical name. The garden is thus invaluable both to the botanist as a source of material for study, and to the gardener or nature-lover wishing to familiarize himself with the plants of this country. Not every New Zealand plant can be grown satisfactorily but a great many can and some of these are illustrated here. The photographs are all of plants actually growing at Otari and were taken in the spring and summer of 1951.

The rock garden is only part of the large area (about 150 acres) of native bush and garden, known as the Otari Open-air Native Plant Museum, that is administered by the Parks and Reserves Department of the Wellington City Council, with Mr. E. Hutt as Director. Originally called Wilton's Bush, this land was bought by the Government in 1907 and proclaimed a Scenic Reserve. The City Council



Blechnum penna-marina.

contributed towards the cost, and eleven years later, after negotiations and a further payment, the land was handed over to them. In 1927, largely at the instigation of Dr. Cockayne (representing New Zealand Institute of Horticulture) and Mr. J. G. Mackenzie (the then Director of Parks and Reserves), the Council approved of a plan to use the reserve for growing as complete a collection of New Zealand plants as possible and to protect and improve the remaining bush. To indicate its new purpose the reserve was given its present name, but for short it is usually called Otari Gardens or more familiarly just Otari. Up till the time of his death in 1934, Dr. Cockayne guided the development of the area, with Mr. A. MacKay as Officer-in-Charge. In 1947 Mr. W. B. Brockie was appointed Curator and the following year the present rock-garden just inside the main entrance was begun. In its finished form this rock-garden, covering nearly one-fifth of an acre, is becoming well-known throughout the country.



W. B. Brockie.
Top, left, *Ranunculus geraniifolius* (Tararua Mtns.); top, right,
R. lyallii \times *monroi*; bottom, part of the rock-garden.



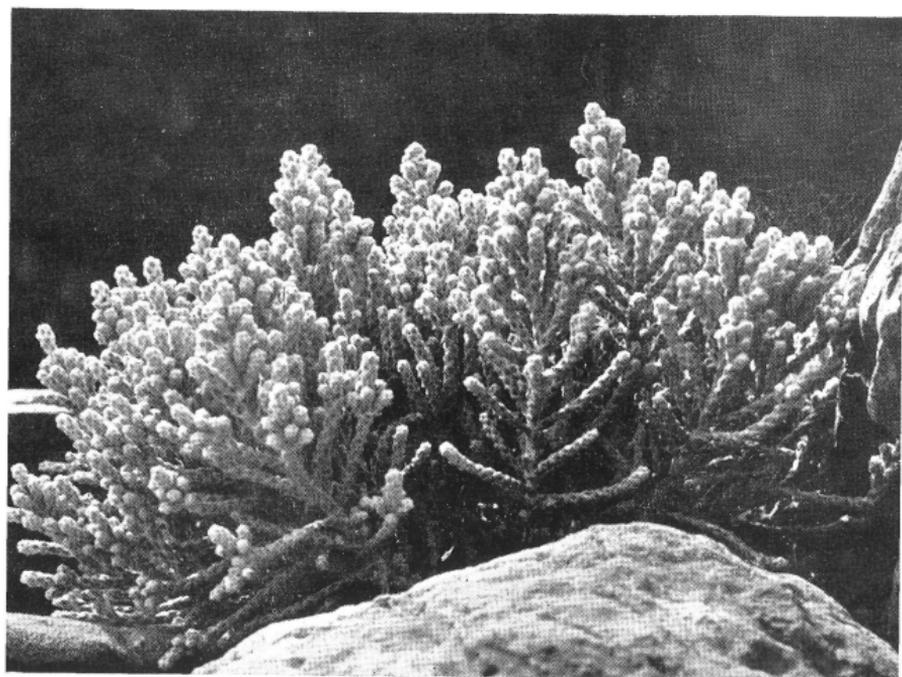
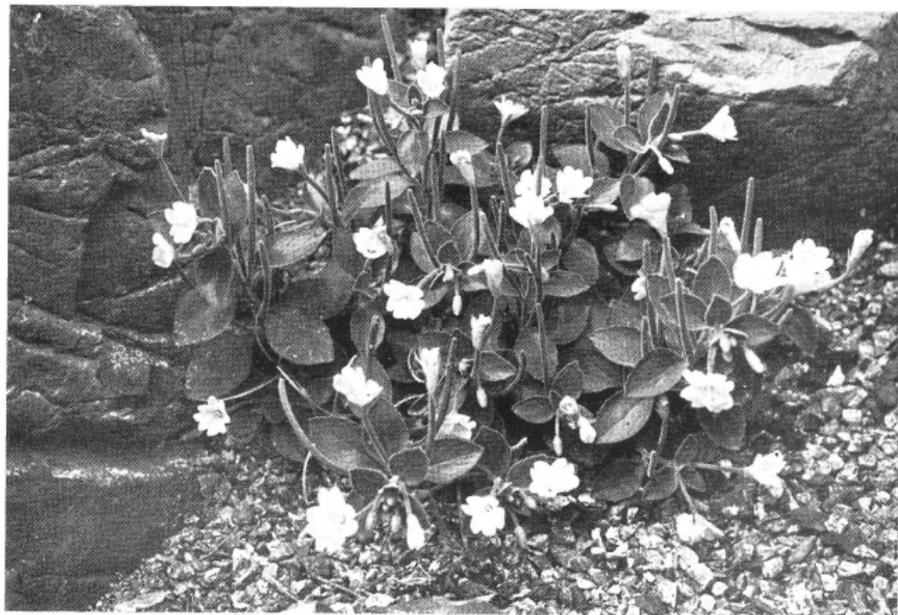
W. B. Broekle.
Top, *Myosotis australis* (Mt. Terako); bottom, *Helichrysum bellidioides*
(Mt. Matthews).



W. B. Brockie.
Top, *Gnaphalium lyallii* (C. Foulwind); bottom, *Jovellana sinclairii*.



Top, *Pachystegia insignis* (Marlborough); bottom, *Celmisia major* (Auckland).
A. P. Druce.



A. P. Druce.
Top, *Epilobium* (unnamed, Mt. Hikurangi); bottom, *Helichrysum plumbeum*
(Fox's Pk.)