

New Zealand Moss Flora

It is with much pleasure that we announce the publication of *A Handbook of the New Zealand Mosses* by G. O. K. Sainsbury, F.L.S., as Bulletin No. 5 of the Royal Society of New Zealand. Complete with introduction, classification, keys, illustrations, glossary and index, this work is of classic importance and ranks with the other moss floras of the world.

Mr. Sainsbury describes 440 species, concerning which, comparative study and a wide specific concept have reduced the endemic ones to less than one third, an important phytogeographical aspect of the book. In New Zealand a wide specific concept, perhaps not always appreciated by overseas bryologists, is the only answer to a variable bryophytic flora, in which, at times, supposed specific criteria just disappear. The descriptions themselves give minute detail, especially as regards the measurements of the different parts, and are followed by informal comments which are relevant and interesting. Another pleasing feature is the retention of the capitals in the nomenclature.

The author has been fortunate in having the co-operation of Miss N. M. Adams, as botanical artist. Miss Adams is well known for the scientific accuracy and artistry of her work, and these 200 drawings of selected species are certainly no exception, for so masterly is the perspective, that they assume, at times, a three-dimensional aspect. Worthy of special mention, I think, are the habit drawings of the dendroid mosses, particularly that of *Hypopterygium filiculaeforme*, the umbrella moss, which is exceedingly beautiful. These illustrations in conjunction with the descriptions will be of inestimable help in the identification of the mosses.

Congratulations are extended to Mr. Sainsbury, Miss Adams and to Dr. J. T. Salmon, Editor for the Royal Society, on this notable addition to the botanical literature of New Zealand.

E. AMY HODGSON.

Note on *Blindia Martini*

G. O. K. Sainsbury, Wairoa

A REMARKABLE case of discontinuous distribution in a New Zealand moss has lately been reported when Mr. A. P. Druce found the endemic *Blindia Martini* on Mt. Hikurangi, East Coast District, in a watercourse at about 5000 ft. The species was set up on material collected by Mr. W. Martin on boulders in streams at Arthur Pass Canterbury, and prior to Mr. Druce's finding that was the only known station; so this discovery in a new locality more than five