

gestions. He confirmed the presence of kowhai seeds on Manawatu beaches from the Manawatu River northwards (pers. comm). On account of the southerly current he thought that they could have come from any of the rivers from the Rangitikei to the Patea. Even a South Island origin was possible, as beech trees have been seen washed up on Manawatu beaches with granite and schist entangled amongst their roots, suggesting a current sweeping north up the South Island west coast and meeting a southward-sweeping current along the Manawatu coastline.

The living plant has been taken to Dr E. J. Godley at Botany Division, Lincoln, where its growth will be watched and compared with that of plants from known localities. Dr Godley noted that it was beginning to develop a juvenile form, and remarked that as the kowhais of the Patea and Wanganui Rivers do not have this character, the seeds could not have come from there. The Rangitikei River (with its tributaries) is a doubtful source, and somewhere along the lower course of the Manawatu or its tributaries seems more probable. This will not be clear until the plant has grown on for some time. In November, 1969, the plant had leaves with up to seven leaflets. With an increase in the number of twigs, the beginning of a divaricating juvenile form, new leaves were forming with five leaflets only.

F. C. DUGUID

#### CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?

- Here may be found the extraordinary vegetable sheep (*Raoulia*) and the giant buttercup — the largest *Ranunculus* in the world, its white and yellow flowers measuring eighteen inches across.  
*New Zealand Geography*, by R. D. Mayhill and H. G. Bawden, 1966
- We turned off to the Chateau which . . . stands at 3700 ft in a bare landscape of red tussock. [Treasure not to have trees on?]  
*The Empire Forestry Review*, 36, p.373, 1957
- The beautiful *Celmisia macmahoni* I did not see, but it is confined to steep rocks inaccessible to goats.  
*Bull. Wellington bot. Soc.* 23, p.20, 1950, pointed out to me by H. E. Connor
- The specific succession has been leptospermum and soil-tolerant scrub hardwoods . . .  
*The Synecology of the West Taupo Indigenous Forest* by P. J. McKelvey, p.1, 1963
- The red beech is aggressive . . . and assimilating the adjacent Hall's totara scrub hardwoods type. [The reds are coming — watch out you backwoods types!]  
*Ibid*, p.9

A. P. DRUCE