

**JOURNAL
OF THE
ROYAL NEW ZEALAND
INSTITUTE
OF
HORTICULTURE**

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Edited under the authority of the Executive
Council of the Institute.

EXAMINATIONS

Examinations for the following are conducted by the Institute:—

1. Junior Certificate in Horticulture.
2. Intermediate Certificate in Horticulture.
3. Diploma in Horticulture.
4. Seedsman's National Certificate.
5. National Certificate in Florists' Art.

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Banks Lecture

Banks and Solander : Fathers of New Zealand Botany

(By H. H. Allan).

In London in February, 1743, with a golden spoon in his mouth, was born a child later to become world-famous as Sir Joseph Banks. Never did a man more faithfully serve science with the wealth that fell into his lap, with the riches of brain and body that were his. Passing through Harrow and Eton, he proceeded to Oxford University. There, finding that no botany lectures were given, he provided a tutor at his own expense, so that the handful of students in that science should not go unfed.

Just ten years earlier, in humbler circumstances, in February, 1733, was born in the remote north of Sweden, on the borders of Lappland, in the small town of Pitea, Daniel Carl Solander. Early his mind was awakened and attuned to the delights of life in the wild, and soon by happy chance he fell under the spell of the great Linnaeus to develop into one of his most eager and best beloved disciples. In 1759 Solander went over to England, worked at the British Museum and was appointed Librarian in 1765, receiving a doctorate from Oxford in 1771. As early as 1764, he was elected to that high honour, the Fellowship of the Royal Society.

Prominent, too, in the work of the Royal Society by now was Banks, who at the early age of twenty-three, in 1763, also achieved his Fellowship. The two men, with so many interests in common, naturally became well acquainted and able to gauge the worth of one another. When there, Banks became interested in the projected voyage of Captain Cook and decided not only to accompany him but to finance the scientific side. He chose Solander as botanist for the expedition. Happy, too, was the choice of Sydney Parkinson as draughtsman and artist, a man whose devoted work has not always been sufficiently appreciated among us.

During the voyage out Banks displayed his courage, initiative, and resource on many occasions. A steadfast help in periods

of difficulty he also proved the supreme thief-catcher during visits of natives to the boats, a famous example being his rescue at Tahiti of the only quadrant the ship possessed. He studied the ways and customs of his visitors, learned something of their language, and with great foresight took on board a man and boy, who were greatly to facilitate his intercourse with the Maori. Thus he laid the foundations of our knowledge of that great race. Characteristic of Banks, Solander, and Parkinson were stolen visits to the shore at Rio in spite of the blunt refusal of the authorities to let anyone land.

An incident during their brief stay at Staten Island cemented the friendship of the pair. They decided to explore the hill country and with a party to assist set out in fine weather. The going proved difficult, a struggle through dense waist-high scrub, and progress was slow. Steadily the temperature fell, and some snow-blasts increased their discomfort. Solander grew exhausted and insisted on lying down in spite of all the efforts of Banks to spur him on to reaching a more sheltered place in the woods. Banks sent a party ahead to make a fire, and himself stayed to care for Solander. As it proved impossible to get Solander forward, he was covered with boughs. During the bitter night two men of the party succumbed. With better weather next day the party succeeded in regaining the ship, having subsisted meanwhile on one culture.

Duly on Friday, October 6th, 1769, "Young Nick" sighted land from the masthead. I need not repeat the familiar story of the boat's course, but just remind you that landings were made and plants collected at Gisborne, Anarua Bay, Tolaga Bay, Mereury Bay, Thames, Bay of Islands, and Queen Charlotte Sound. In all some 1000 specimens were obtained, while Solander drew up preliminary descriptions of over 350 species. Parkinson, too, led the busiest of lives, making drawings of over 200 plants, in addition to his numerous sketches familiar to readers of his *Journal* and of Hawkesworth's "Cook's Voyages."

Here the lecture was illustrated by lantern slides, showing some of the places and plants made famous by the researches of Banks and Solander. By kind permission of the Auckland Museum some of the specimens actually gathered by Banks and Solander were displayed, with examples of Parkinson's drawings.

At the Poverty Bay landings but little could be gathered; "The only time when we wandered about a mile from the boats was upon a swamp, where not more than three species of plants were found." But better things were in store. Parkinson tells how: "On the 15th in the morning, we bent our course round a small peninsular which was joined to the mainland by a low isthmus, on which were many groves of tall, straight trees that looked as if they had been planted by art. . . The country looked very pleasant, having fine, sloping hills which stretched out into beautiful green lawns, though not covered with wood as other parts of the coast are." Of Anarua Bay he says: "The country about the bay is agreeable beyond description, and with proper cultivation, might be

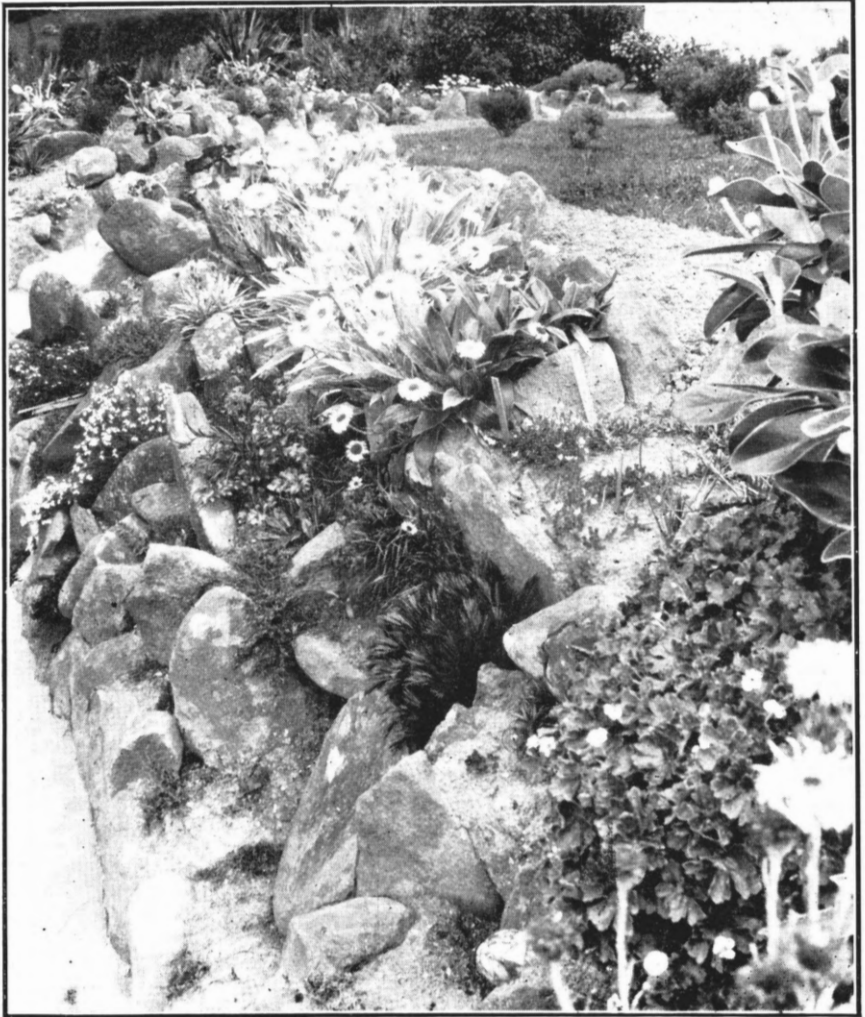
rendered a kind of second Paradise. The hills are covered with beautiful flowering shrubs, intermingled with a great number of tall and stately palms, which fill the air with a most grateful fragrant perfume. We saw the tree which produces the cabbage, which we ate well boiled. We also found some trees yielded a fine transparent gum, and between the hills we discovered some fruitful valleys that are adapted to either cultivation or pasturage. The country abounds with different kinds of herbage fit for food. Our botanists were agreeably employed in investigating the trees and plants of the country. Within land there were many scandent ferns and parasitic plants, and on the seashore *Salicornias*, *Mesembryanthemum* and others. The plant of which they make their cloth is a sort of *Hemerocallis*, and the leaves yield a very strong and glossy flax, of which their garments and ropes are made. Adjoining their houses are plantations of kumera, and taro. These grounds are cultivated with great care and kept clean and neat.

You all know Cook's interest in the trees and of his admiration of the kahikatea forests of the Thames: "We had not gone a hundred yards into the woods before we found a tree that girded 19ft. 6in. 6ft. above the ground, and having a quadrant with me I found its length from the root to the first branch to be 89ft; it was as straight as an arrow, and tapered but little in proportion to its length." For 130 years this historic tree survived, at last to be wantonly felled.

The comparatively long stay in the sheltered waters of Queen Charlotte Sound enabled Banks and Solander to botanize to their hearts' content, and some 220 species were collected. Here, in all their beauty, were seen the renga-lily (*Artropodium cirratum*) and the geisha-girl (*Euphrasia cuneata*). A latter-day botanist will recapture their thrill as he gazes through his lens at the most lovely stamens of the one or the quaint markings of the other. Here, too, in the *Nothofagus solandri* forest they would scent the fragrance of the charming orchid, *Earina autumnalis*. Striking still remain the expanses of that plant we once called *Phormium cookianum*.

Something of the glory of Stewart Island they would realize as they passed its southern bounds, where, and on the Solander Isles, lay concealed the wonderful *Stilbocarpa lyallii*. Passing the impressive scenery of Dusky Sound they could not know what delight it was to give the botanists of Cook's second voyage. For here, at water's edge, with its background of *Olearia*, *Senecio*, and *Veronica*, the splendid *Celmisia verbascifolia* awaited with its soft pale-green leaves and gay white flowers. At the low level also were later to be discovered some of the best of our species of *Bulbinella*, *Aciphylla*, *Gentiana*, *Euphrasia*, *Ourisia*, *Ranunculus*. Nor would the season permit them as they sailed north, to see the "Flowers that with one scarlet gleam cover a hundred leagues, and seem to set the hills on fire." So on the 31st of March, 1770, Banks and Solander saw the last of our shores, soon to be excited by the so-different flora of Australia.

On their return to England, Banks and Solander were received in audience by King George III, who displayed great



—Photo J. Scott Thomson.

The plants that delighted the pioneers of the wild now grace our gardens and recall their wanderings.

interest in their activities, and sought Banks's advice in his plans for the advancement of the Royal Botanic Gardens. Solander returned to his post at the British Museum and also became Curator of the Banks Herbarium. He entered upon the laborious task of revising and completing his descriptions of the plants collected. "These descriptions;" says Hooker, "have never been surpassed for fullness, terseness, and accuracy." Banks and Solander contemplated joining Cook's second voyage, but matters went agley. But the report of the proposal almost deprived Linnaeus of sleep. In a memorable letter to Ellis, he said: "Whilst the whole botanical world, like myself, has been looking for the most transcendent benefits to our science, from the unrivalled exertions of your countrymen, all their matchless and truly astonishing collection, such as has never been seen before, nor may ever be seen again, is to be put aside untouched, to be thrust into some corner, to become perhaps, the prey of insects and of destruction. I have every day been figuring to myself the occupations of my pupil, Solander, now putting his collection in order, having first arranged and numbered his plants. . . . Thus, thought I, the world will be delighted and benefited by all these discoveries and the foundations of true science will be strengthened, so as to endure through all generations . . . By all that is great and good, I entreat you, who know so well the value of science, to do all that in you lies for the publication of these new acquisitions, that the learned world may not be deprived of them. . . . I see these things now but afar off. If our travellers should take another trip, I shall have seen them as Moses saw Canaan." The trip was not taken, and the work was done! But the plates and descriptions of the Australian species were not published till 1905, those of New Zealand not yet.

J. D. Hooker, who as a young man worshipped at the feet of Robert Brown, and who rendered such signal service to New Zealand botany, of course, owed much to the Banks and Solander collection. He has said (1853): "The results are admirable whether we consider the excellence of the specimens, the judgment with which they were selected, the artistic drawings by which they are illustrated, and above all the accurate manuscript descriptions and observations that accompany them." He spoke of the withholding from publication as "a national loss, and to science a grievous one, since, had it been otherwise, the botany of New Zealand would have been better known fifty years ago than it now is."

There ensued for Banks a period of great activity and importance. President of the Royal Society at the age of thirty-five, he remained at the helm for forty-two years. As Botanical Adviser to and unofficial Director of Kew, his influence on botany and horticulture grew steadily. His policy of assisting botanists to travel to all parts of the world for plants of economic or horticultural value brought many treasures to the gardens and much gain to botanical science. Although he withdrew from Cook's second voyage, he did all he could, and that was much, to aid the work of the botanists, Forster, father and son, on the expedition.

Banks's house at Soho, in the words of de Sain-Fond, became the 'rendezvous of those who cultivate the sciences. They assemble every morning in one of the apartments of a numerous library, which consists entirely of books on Natural History, and is the completest of its kind in existence. There all the journals and public papers relative to the sciences are to be found; and there they communicate to each other such new discoveries as they are informed of by their respective correspondents, or which are transmitted by the learned foreigners who visit London, and who are all admitted into this Society. A friendly breakfast of tea or coffee supports that tone of ease and fraternity which ought universally to prevail among men of Science and letters."

The library was frequented by young Robert Brown, later to be accorded by his peers the proud title of *Botanicorum facile princeps*. By Banks he was sent as botanist to the "Investigator" expedition. Thus was Brown enabled to commence his epoch-making studies on the plants of Australia. Another young Scotchman sent a-travelling was Archibald Menzies of the "Discovery." Famous as the discoverer of the Californian redwood and the Chile pine, his name is well-known to New Zealand botanists, and often recalled to mind by the fascinating *Dracophyllum menziesii*.

The "Discovery" touched at Dusky Sound, and here Menzies collected for study mosses and liverworts, "and this," says Hooker, "at a time when these objects were scarcely thought worthy of attention, and their structure and functions little known or understood."

And so the inspiration of Banks and Solander remains. As we wander through our land, with its varied vegetation, we are continually reminded that we are treading in the footsteps of these pioneers and their successors. Along our shores we greet *Blechnum banksii*, and *Olearia solandri*, still find Cook's scurvy grass, now, alas, hardly "copiose in littoribus marinis," and wonder whether by strange good hap we may light on *Clianthus puniceus* really wild, as we recall the delight with which those early botanists gazed on it in a Maori garden. Entering our forests we come upon the masses of *Astelia solandri* and *A. banksii*, or catch the fragrance of *Alseuosmia banksii*, or pause upon the grace of *Cordyline banksii*, or reflect that even the humble *Carex solandri* is full of scientific interest. Forcing our way through the tangled masses of kiekie (*Freyinetia banksii*) we remember their struggles on Staten Island and think how easy is our path compared with theirs. Through whole forests of *Nothofagus solandri*, we can pass, our feet sinking into the soft cushions of *Dicranoloma menziesii*, our eyes searching for *Uncinia banksii* and its hybrids, and our mind musing on the old far-off days of these pioneers and pathfinders.

As we pass from coast to lowland, ascend the mountains and gain the heights, names of their successors, followers of the tradition, members of the brotherhood, come thronging to us: D'Urville, the Cunninghams, Bidwell, Dieffenbach, Raoul, Hooker, Colenso, Sinclair, Lyall, Monro, Travers, Haast, Lindsay, Buchanan, Hector, Kirk, Berggren, the Armstrongs, Cheeseman, Petrie, Cockayne. Great names! An inspiration to all who follow in their footsteps.

THE MODERN HYDRANGEA.

(By R. R. Martin.)

I am not amongst the fortunate ones who have travelled the world and seen their favourite flower growing under the care of leading horticulturists, but men not unknown in high places, have told me that nowhere are conditions more suitable to Hydrangea culture than the milder districts of New Zealand.

Be this as it may, our new varieties are all imported and nurserymen cannot grow enough of the choicer novelties to meet the demand that is ever increasing with their growing popularity.

I know of no flower that so well deserves popular favour. For adaptability to soil, climate and position, hardiness, long flowering season, variety of colour and form, and for beauty as decoration in either the garden or the house, it surely has few rivals.

Perhaps because of its very "kindness" and the ease with which it can be grown reasonably well, the spate of gardening literature of recent years is almost silent on Hydrangea culture.

Let the tyro gardener plant a dozen Hydrangeas and a dozen Roses, giving to each the same amount of attention (or lack of it), and in three years his Roses will be almost worthless, and his Hydrangeas probably nearly as good as those of his expert neighbour. But, though there are many amateurs who grow Roses to perfection, few get the best out of their Hydrangeas—perhaps because the latter struggle so bravely in adversity, and even failures may still be beautiful.

The following few hints may be of assistance to those who wish to grow better blooms:—

POSITION.

Having regard to the extreme adaptability of the subject as regards soil and general culture, I place position as of first importance. It should be (1) sheltered as much as possible from prevailing winds, as well-grown flowers and buds are very lush and tender until ripe and may be completely ruined by even a mild gale, and constant winds take from the blooms that "freshness" which is their great charm and (2) shaded from afternoon sun. This protection is desirable for all varieties and essential to most.

Remember that the name derives from Hydor—water, and Aggeion—a vessel, meaning "a vessel of water" and, whatever its powers of absorption, no plant can absorb as fast as it loses moisture through evaporation in the hottest part of the day. To grow a perfect bloom, no part of the bush should ever be allowed to wilt. A favourite bush may be partly protected by allowing a trickle of water to run over the roots during particularly sunny days, though this has its dangers, through making the tips extremely tender. The ideal position, and the one that gives the best setting, is under large canopy trees, where the air is always cool, and yet there is sufficient light to ripen the blooms and prevent running up of bushes to an ungainly height. Failing this, a high wall or building on the north and northwest is next best, though plants should not be set nearer than 4ft. to any solid structure.

SOIL.

Well rotted turf, taken from a good strong soil, forms the best foundation for a bed, and cow manure can be worked into the top 2ft. in any quantity available, up to as much as a third of the total bulk. A very clayey subsoil tends to cake badly and, when preparing to plant Hydrangeas or any other perennials in such soil, it pays to work it well in the dry weather, incorporating hedge clippings, stable manure, rotted straw, or anything that will tend to keep it free. The balance of various chemicals in the native soil will have a pronounced tendency to modify the colour of the blooms, and any treatment, to offset this condition, should be more effective in a free than in an over retentive soil, owing to the difficulty of penetration in the latter.

PLANTING.

In preparing the ground, it is preferable to allow for clumps or beds of at least 12-15 plants, as they look better and do better massed. Trench to a good depth: in a few years some roots will go down 3ft., though the main ball will not get much below 2ft. Deep working makes for water retention and, once the plants are established, very little working will be possible because of the surface roots, which must not be disturbed. One seldom sees the bushes set sufficiently far apart. Four feet each way is close enough, and some of the most robust growers can do with five feet.

PRUNING.

Using the rose again as a comparison, I would say that unskilled pruning of Hydrangeas is the most common cause of failure or at least mediocrity, where success would otherwise be possible. Many gardeners who carefully study their roses and prune them intelligently—because they must, if they are to get shapely bushes and good blooms—are satisfied to remove dead blooms and otherwise neglect their Hydrangeas, or just “cut them back.”

No date can be set for pruning, any more than for cutting the first blooms. It depends on the season and is better done a little late than too early, and some early varieties are two weeks ahead of others. When the leaf buds are swollen and just showing a hint of green is the ideal time. Start by cutting out all weak spindly growths, including any green ones, and do not be frightened to thin the canes out. Remember the buds come in pairs, and nearly every cane stopped means two canes of new growth. I take some of the centre out of most of my bushes each year, and there are generally a few drooping branches to remove. There is some diversity of opinion as to which wood throws the best flowering shoots—two-year-old or older. Personally I cannot see any difference as a general rule.

An old bush, that has gone too much to wood, can be cut right back in one year to 18-24 inches from the ground, though there will not be many blooms that season. Just where to stop the canes, depends entirely on the character of growth. In some robust kinds, there will be as many as thirty pairs of buds on a last year's shoot. Another shoot of similar length may have only six or so. A rough guide is to cut off half the number of buds, always, of course, cutting immediately above a strong pair.

PROPAGATION.

Cuttings of ripened or partly ripened wood strike very readily at almost any time of the year, but I prefer to make mine during March and April. The best plants come from small sections of good, sturdy canes and, for increasing valuable stock, a section cut half an inch each side of a pair of leaves or leaf buds and split. The flat sides and portion of the bud, then pressed into moist sand, root readily. For the average gardener, I advise the more simple method of selecting a reasonably hard cane with the buds fairly close together, and inserting two pairs of buds in the soil, leaving the remaining pair about 2 inches above ground. Each of the two buried notches will form a root system, and the plant will quickly become established. The propagating bed should be kept shaded, and always moist, though it must not be too wet. Contrary to the general rule, Hydrangeas may be struck in quite rich soil and, except for the very small cuttings, sand is not necessary. New varieties, of course, come from hybridising but, in New Zealand, there seems to be great difficulty in getting seed to set.

CUTTINGS UNDER GLASS.

Those beautiful single heads of bloom, in 5 and 6 inch pots, that the nurserymen display in December, are very easy to grow in a cool glass house. Tip cuttings are used in this case. On every mature bush, there are always a few terminals that have missed blooming in the current season. Choose from amongst these one that is well ripened, with leaf buds close together. Make a square cut below the third notch from the top, remove the bottom two sets of leaves, and just cover the second notch with soil. These tip cuttings may be taken in February and March and struck, either in the pots they are to flower in, or in boxes and potted later when rooted. In either case, they should remain under the benches until fresh growth has started. If the house is open to afternoon sun, great care must be taken to keep the temperature down during hot weather, and it is advisable to syringe the leaves occasionally, taking care not to get the soil too wet. When the buds begin to form in the late spring, the plants should be watered daily until the blooms are finished. If a good, rich potting mixture is used, little more is required in the way of feeding, though a teaspoonful of guano pricked in before watering just as the first tinge of colour shows in the buds, seems to add lustre to the blooms.

COLOUR TREATMENT.

Contrary to popular belief, there is really very little known about the basic causes of colour variations. The New Jersey Plant Research Station, an institution exceptionally well equipped for research and experimental work, after an extensive series of tests and careful observation, would go no further than the following in summarising the conclusions of its experts.

“The rule appears to be that a sour soil produces blue flowers, and pink blooms come from sweet soil.”

The Cawthron Institute conducted experiments in Nelson, spread over three seasons, and though treatment along the lines of known tendencies was applied, they could only report, “Results inconclusive.” My information from well-informed sources in



Terminal Suitable for Tip Cutting.



Terminal with leaves removed and end leaves shortened back. It should be inserted in soil up to point shown by line.

England is similar. It is all very puzzling, and I doubt if there is, in the whole field of horticulture, a challenge more worthy of acceptance by the student equipped with the necessary training, and having facilities for isolation and leisure for experimenting.

It is admitted that in certain soils where, untreated, all blooms are pink, blues can be induced by treatment, and vice versa but, as the bushes age, reversion often takes place. After years of observation, I have come to the conclusion that the natural or recessive colour of the *Hydrangea* is pink and, where we see a blue bush, it is growing in an environment that is foreign to its nature.

My garden is in a district where all virgin soil is sour, and *Hydrangeas* come blue if untreated. At pruning time, I sometimes set a few cuttings under the parent bushes, and occasionally an odd one remains long enough to bear a flower there. It has happened that a cutting from a blue bush, planted in "blue" soil, bore the first year a pink bloom! I have made tip cuttings from a blue bush, in pots filled with "blue" soil, and they have produced, each one, a magnificent pink head the following spring in my glass-house.

The foregoing remarks must not be taken to mean that colour control is hopeless; far from it. I have had a fair measure of success, and enough failures to keep my interest alive, and for those who care to try them, the following directions will assure a fair average of successes.

Firstly, it is advisable to select, for colour treatment, a bed that is raised well above the level of surrounding soil, as seepage from higher, untreated ground, will tend to neutralise treatment. The whole bed must, of course, be treated and should be prepared at least three months before the plants are to be set.

The top soil should be carefully put aside, and the subsoil broken up and treated to a depth of at least 2ft. 6in.—3ft. is not too much. The top soil should be similarly treated, as replaced. Alum appears the most satisfactory blueing agent, and for a bed 20ft. by 4ft. to take 5 plants 4ft. apart and 2ft. from ends, I would use about 15lbs., well distributed and mixed right through the bed. For pinks, I would use about 80lbs. of finely ground carbonate of lime, watering well occasionally and forking the top soil when dry enough to work. I find cow manure helps to retain the pinks in my soil, and I do not use any artificial manures in beds treated with lime. Lime tends to work down through the soil and it is a good plan to give a dressing of about $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. to the square yard each year to the "pink treated" beds, and similarly, the soured beds should have a dusting of about 1oz. of alum to the yard every six weeks or so, followed by a good watering to prevent burning surface roots.

Colour treatment is not effective for some months, and the influence of the nursery soil will determine the colour of the first year's blooms.

I feel I must conclude this article by stressing that successful colour treatment means a great deal of work and constant attention. Whatever the nature of the soil, a *Hydrangea* well grown in the right situation will be beautiful, whether pink, blue, or any of the delightful mid colours, and a good selection of varieties will always assure a mixture of shades without special treatment.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF SIXTEENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

Held in St. Mary's Hall, New Plymouth, on Thursday, 2nd February, 1939, at 10 a.m.

REPORTS.—The following reports were received and adopted:—

1.—Executive (with Statement of Accounts).—See Journal of December, 1938.

2.—Examining Board.—See Journal of December, 1938.

3.—Action on Remits, etc., passed at the 1938 Conference.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS, ETC.—

President:—F. S. Pope, Esq., Wellington, was unanimously re-elected.

Vice-Presidents:—Messrs. T. L. Lancaster (Auckland), C. W. Corner (Hawkes Bay), J. C. McDowall (Taranaki), J. G. MacKenzie (Wellington), P. Black (Palmerston North), Sir Theodore Rigg (Nelson), J. A. McPherson (Canterbury), D. Tannock (Otago) and Sir R. A. Anderson, C.M.G. (Southland).

Executive Committee:—Mrs. Knox Gilmer, Professor H. B. Kirk, Dr. W. R. B. Oliver, Dr. H. H. Allan, Messrs. T. Waugh, W. K. Dallas, W. T. Goodwin, W. C. Hyde, W. S. Mason, A. McMillan, E. Hutt, A. W. Just, A. White and representatives of Government Departments and National Bodies and Societies.

Hon. Auditor:—Mr. J. L. Arcus (re-appointed).

Hon. Fellow:—Mr. John Scott Thomson (Dunedin).

Honorary Overseas Member:—Professor Carl J. F. Skottsberg, Gothenberg, Sweden.

The President, after returning thanks for his re-election, delivered the following address:—

“I am sure that those of you who visited Christchurch during the National Horticultural Week last year will agree with me that the City of Plains proved itself a leader among the towns of the Dominion in matters horticultural, both as regards the splendid National Flower Show then staged and the wonderful public and private gardens and parks we were privileged to see.

I am also sure that you have already seen enough to be able to bear me out in saying that New Plymouth, especially if allowance is made for the small population and the less extensive financial resources, is very well able to make Christchurch or any other New Zealand city look to its laurels when horticultural excellence is under discussion. With its glorious sunshine, its well distributed rainfall, and its highly fertile soil, New Plymouth and indeed Taranaki as a whole, has great natural advantage for the Horticulturist, and fortunately its people have, from the earliest days of settlement in the district, shown a real love for trees and flowers—an affection that manifests itself charmingly in the beautiful gardens and parks to be seen to-day in all directions. New Plymouth has also been specially blest in that certain of its leading citizens have, during their life-time, preserved areas of native forest or planted parks of great beauty, and have ultimately bequeathed these to the town to be enjoyed in perpetuity by its

citizens and visitors. In this connection the names of Newton King, T. C. List, and C. H. Burgess will be held in increasingly grateful remembrance as New Plymouth develops into a city and open spaces within its limits become even more highly appreciated.

CONDOLENCE.—

Since our last Conference New Zealand horticulture in general and the Institute in particular have suffered severe loss through the death of some of their most prominent supporters. Among these Mr. F. J. Nathan was President of the Institute for about twelve years, and, in spite of impaired health during part of that time, rendered valuable service, especially at the Annual Conferences. The sudden passing of Mr. J. A. Campbell, N.D.H. (N.Z.), when apparently in good health and full of vitality, came as a great shock to his many friends throughout the industry in all parts of the Dominion. As an officer of the Horticulture Division of the Department of Agriculture, he rose to the highest position in the Division, that of its Director, and as during part of his service I was head of that Department, I am able to say from personal knowledge that at every stage his advancement was entirely due to his exceptional fitness for the several positions he was called upon to fill. In the affairs of the Institute he took a leading part from its inception, recognising as he did its value as a liaison between the Division and the industry at large. He was an active member of the Dominion Council and of the Examination Board, and served on a large number of special sub-committees of the Institute as well as on the joint committee of the bodies concerned in our National Horticultural Week. He will be very greatly missed for his wisdom, his savoir faire, his genial good nature and his transparent honesty of purpose. The sympathy of the Institute was conveyed to the relatives of Mr. Nathan and Mr. Campbell at the proper time by direction of the Dominion Council; but it is fitting that this Conference, representing New Zealand horticulture as a whole, should also record its regret and sympathy, and that the Secretary should be directed to communicate with the relatives in that sense. I ask you to stand for a few moments in silence for that purpose.

THE LODER CUP.—I should like to take this opportunity of again congratulating Mrs. Knox Gilmer on having received the 1938 award of the Loder Cup, given by the late Lord Wakehurst for distinguished service in the interests of what he himself described as "the incomparable flora of New Zealand." To win this Cup is a great honour, and on Mrs. Gilmer it has been worthily bestowed.

SCHOOL OF HORTICULTURE, CHRISTCHURCH.—It seems advisable to again refer briefly to some of the matters mentioned in my remarks at the opening of last year's Conference. Among these, perhaps the most important is the proposal that the School of Horticulture, which the local Domains Board is carrying on at Christchurch, should be given Governmental assistance by way of subsidy to enable it to be put upon a sound basis. It will be re-

membered that a deputation from the Institute, with outside support from its Canterbury District Council, waited on the Prime Minister in November, 1937, and was received by the Right Hon. Mr. Savage with very encouraging cordiality and understanding of the position. It is gathered that certain supposed difficulties were afterwards raised and that inquiry into these led to delay. It is hoped, however, that the position has now been clarified, and that this year's appropriations will provide for the additional finance without which the school cannot be developed.

INSTRUCTION OF STUDENTS, WELLINGTON.—The City of Wellington is still without the glass-house accommodation for lack of which the acceptance of students for training at the local municipal gardens is not considered practicable. This is unfortunate, not only for would-be students of horticulture, but also for the gardens themselves, for the work of the students would be a considerable asset. Until this want is filled by either private munificence or municipal enlightenment, Wellington must remain at the dual disadvantage of being unable to train horticultural students and of being without a winter garden for the education and pleasure of its citizens.

WIDER INSTRUCTION FOR COMMERCIAL HORTICULTURISTS.—So far as has been made known, the Horticulture Division of the Department of Agriculture has not yet added to its very successful system of instruction to orchardists a similar service to commercial producers of vegetables, bush fruits, and flowers. I am still convinced that this would be a wise move.

TREE-PRESERVATION AND AMENITY PLANTING.—Governmental action in pursuance of the opinions ventilated at the enthusiastic conference held in April, 1937, has not yet materialised. Perhaps it has become evident that the Dominion-wide organisation then envisaged went beyond the practical requirements of the situation. However, the work done by the Internal Affairs Department in the destruction of deer in inaccessible parts of the country seems worthy of high commendation as far as it goes; but one would like to be assured that on the whole the menace of browsing animals in our protective forests is being held in check.

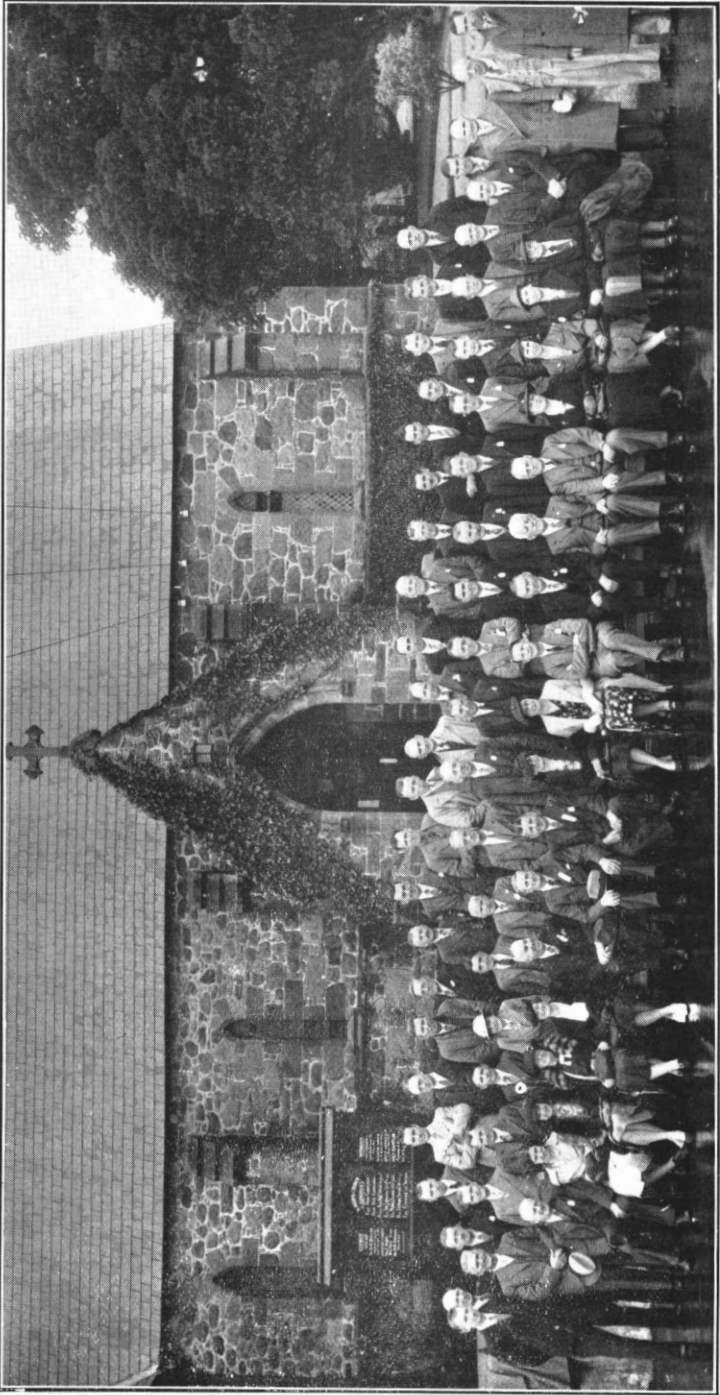
THE INSTITUTE IN TARANAKI.—Turning now to matters not specially mentioned in last year's address, it is very gratifying to note the continued activity of the Taranaki District Council of the Institute. The work has been carried on excellently, and great credit for this is due to Mr. J. C. McDowall, B.Sc., as District President, and Mr. L. W. Delph, M.A., as District Secretary, both of whom have given much time and work to the affairs of the Institute.

MOUNT EGMONT.—It is inevitable that, in giving a Presidential address at a Conference of the Institute of Horticulture in New Plymouth, some reference should be made to Mount Egmont, the majestic and world-famous peak that towers over and dominates the whole district in which we are assembled. Those of us who do not live in this part of the Dominion may not be familiar with such facts as that the soil of the district as a whole was in bygone ages hurled from the torrid depths of Mother Earth through the craters

of this gigantic blow-hole; that the wealth-giving rainfall of Taranaki's largely due to Egmont's snowy mantle; and that the ubiquitous running water, without which the immense productiveness of the district would be impossible, is very largely derived from the forested slopes and frozen wastes of the same beneficent giant. The people of Taranaki know these things, and are probably rather tired of hearing them repeated; but do they sufficiently realise that Egmont—the mighty dispenser of bounty on such a scale that in comparison the munificence of Rockefeller, Carnegie, and Nuffield pales into insignificance—do they sufficiently realise that this same Egmont, if stripped of his skirts of water-detaining forest, would take a revenge as vast as his present bounty, by turning loose after every heavy rain a thousand devils in the shape of uncontrolled torrents of rock-laden water that would sweep into the sea whatever soil they failed to bury, and would carry devastation and ruin over a much greater area than appears possible under the circumstances as we know them to-day? Let me urge, to the utmost extent of any influence that vests in me as President of this Institute, that every resident in Taranaki should make it his or her business to see that those in authority exercise the very greatest care that neither uncontrolled timber-getting, nor unexterminated browsing animals, nor introduced plants, nor unnecessary road-making, nor supposedly desirable amenities for tourists, nor indeed any kind of thing whatever, should be allowed to interfere, however remotely with the maintenance of the indigenous forest still remaining upon the slopes of your glorious mountain as Taranaki's bulwark against the otherwise inevitable destruction of her wonderful prosperity.

HORTICULTURAL EDUCATION.—The control of the Dominion's system of technical horticultural education by means of the scheme of examinations authorised by the Institute of Horticulture Act, 1927, continues to be one of the major projects of the Institute. Twenty-two candidates sat for these examinations in November, 1937, and ten passes (including three for the full Diploma in Horticulture), and nine partial passes (including three towards the diploma), were obtained, a result that reflects much credit upon the candidates as a whole. The total number of diplomas or certificates granted since the inception of the statutory scheme has now reached 360. The Cockayne Gold Medal, awarded annually to the best student in the diploma examination as a memorial to Dr. L. Cockayne, the Institute's first President, was appropriately won this year by a New Plymouth candidate, Mr. F. J. W. Joyle. Fuller particulars of our educational activities will be found in the report of the Examination Board. It is gratifying to note that the Institute's diploma and certificates are being recognised to an increasing extent by such employers of horticulturists as the Public Service Commissioner and local-governing bodies. No doubt the time will ultimately arrive when those seeking employment as horticulturists will be at a serious disadvantage if they lack the imprimatur of the Institute.

CERTIFICATES FOR GREENKEEPERS.—The number of men having



NATIONAL HORTICULTURAL WEEK, 1939, NEW PLYMOUTH

the technical charge of golf links, bowling green, cricket grounds, tennis courts, and croquet lawns in New Zealand are now very considerable, but there is as yet no ready means by which bodies or persons proposing to employ such men can ascertain whether applicants possess the necessary training for the work. The engagement of an unskilled man may result in damage taking years to rectify. It has occurred to me that in view of these conditions it might be of public advantage if the Institute undertook the issue of certificates of competency to greenkeepers, on lines akin to those already applying in the case of florists and seedsmen. As is usual in all such cases, it would no doubt be advisable to grant certificates without examination to those who have already satisfactorily held such positions for, say, five years. A remit on this subject will come before the Conference.

THE JOURNAL OF THE INSTITUTE.—The standard of our quarterly journal has been well maintained, and, for this, sincere thanks are due to Dr. W. R. B. Oliver (who has been its editor for many years) and to Dr. H. H. Allan, who has kindly consented to take over that duty permanently, after carrying it out in an acting capacity during Dr. Oliver's recent absence abroad.

LIBRARY.—It is suggested that perhaps the time has arrived for initiating a horticultural library for the benefit of members of the Institute and of affiliated bodies. As a library without a librarian and without suitable accommodation would be an almost useless embarrassment, the matter is not simple; but possibly means of overcoming these difficulties will be found. This matter will also be brought up by a remit.

BANKS LECTURE.—Last year the Banks Lecture (given annually in honour of the late Sir Joseph Banks, one of the earliest and most distinguished botanists who have studied the flora of New Zealand) was delivered by Dr. O. H. Frankel, geneticist to the Wheat Research Institute, Christchurch. He dealt in a very able way with "The Evolution of Cultivated Plants," and as usual the lecture has since been published in our journal. This year the lecture will be given by Dr. H. H. Allan, Director of the Botany Division of the Bureau of Plant Research in the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research; Dr. Allan's name is a guarantee that we may look forward to an outstanding and interesting address.

FINANCE.—The annual accounts show that with the aid of a grant of £100 from the Department of Agriculture the Institute's financial position is satisfactory, there being again a small balance on the right side, and the accumulated fund now amounting to over £300. The Institute's main strength is, of course, the loyal work of its members and affiliates; but a certain amount of money is necessary for its operations, and it may well thank the Hon. W. Lee Martin, Minister of Agriculture, for the continuance of the subsidy, and also the bodies and persons who regularly contribute towards its necessary expenditure.

THE COOPER TROPHY.—During the year Messrs. F. Cooper (Ltd.) of Wellington, presented the Institute with a cheque for £115/10/- to enable a trophy to be awarded for the most meritorious

exhibit at the National Horticultural Show each year. I am sure that the conference heartily endorses the thanks that has been expressed to the firm for its generous action.

THANKS.—Special thanks have been well earned by the Institute's Examination Board and by its examiners in the several centres; by those who have served, in some cases very ably, upon the District Councils; and also by our thoroughly efficient and imperturbable secretary-treasurer, Mr. G. S. Nicoll.

VISITS TO ALLIED ORGANISATIONS.—As your president, I have during the year been very kindly invited to attend the undermentioned functions, and of these invitations, I have been extremely pleased to take advantage. The reception given by the Royal Society and the University to Dr. Skottsberg, the renowned Swedish botanist; the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the New Zealand Alpine and Rock Garden Society; the annual meeting of the New Zealand Daffodil Society, and in connection with this a very enjoyable reception at the residence of Mr. H. Poole; and shows of the Wellington, the Hutt Valley, and the Karori Horticultural Societies.

DIRECTOR OF THE HORTICULTURE DIVISION.—Congratulations were extended to Mr. W. K. Dallas, N.D.H. (N.Z.) on his appointment as Director of the Horticulture Division of the Department of Agriculture in succession to the late Mr. Campbell. Mr. Dallas has always taken a keen interest in the work of the Institute, and was for some time honorary secretary of its Otago District Council. He has a difficult task in following so able a predecessor, and I know that you will all wish him every success and will give him whatever support you can. Personally I feel that the confidence placed in him by the Government will be fully justified, Mr. Dallas being to my knowledge, the possessor of both ability and character in no small degree.

NEW ZEALAND CENTENNIAL.—Next year's National Horticultural Week, if held at the usual time, will take place almost simultaneously with the centenary of the Dominion, and during the period of the Centennial Exhibition in Wellington. One may, therefore, suppose that the bodies whose annual gatherings form a principal part of the proceedings during that week, will instruct their representatives on the Joint Committee to have Wellington chosen as the venue of the week's activities, including the National Flower Show. Assuming that Wellington will be decided upon, I am confident that all possible support towards making the week thoroughly successful will be forthcoming from the authorities of the exhibition. Whether sufficient accommodation could be made available to enable the show to be held at the exhibition would remain to be seen, but in any case our fixtures should benefit considerably from publicity given by the exhibition management. It is, therefore, greatly to be hoped that, as far as at all practicable, growers in every part of the Dominion will compete at the show and thus make it a credit to New Zealand horticulture as a whole. To be a winner at the Centennial National Flower Show will undoubtedly be an honour that will be keenly sought. I confidently

commend the matter to your careful consideration and hope to have the pleasure of meeting you all in Wellington in a year's time.

REMITTS ADOPTED.

EDUCATIONAL:—

1 That the Canterbury District Council reaffirms its remit carried as a suggestion to the Dominion Council at the Annual Conference, 1938, viz.: That Syllabus No. 1 Junior Examination first section, be amended to read as follows: Chemistry as prescribed for the Intermediate Examination conducted by the Education Department. The Examining Board may, for the purposes of this paragraph, recognise equivalent examinations.—Carried as recommendation to Dominion Council.

2 That it be a recommendation to the Dominion Council that it should continue to bring before the Government the necessity of establishing a School of Horticulture in New Zealand.

3 That it be a recommendation to the Dominion Council that the term "approved garden," used in connection with the qualification of students desiring to take the Institute's Examinations, should be further considered with a view to extension of the interpretation thereof.—Carried for reference to Dominion Council with suggestions.

4 That Conference should state its views as to whether the standard of horticulture, especially professional horticulture, is being raised by the Institute's Educational Scheme.—The discussion was unanimously favourable.

5 That the Dominion Council be recommended to establish certificate for greenkeepers—Golf, Bowling, Cricket, Tennis and Croquet.

FOREST PRESERVATION:—

6 That the Institute gives its most vigorous support to any campaign designed to check soil erosion, especially that caused by removal of forest and other natural ground covering.

Note.—The danger from this is probably more real in Taranaki than in any other Province.

HORTICULTURAL CLASSIFICATION:—

7 That the Dominion Council be recommended to issue a publication clearing up doubtful points in respect of the classification required for Horticultural Societies' Shows, e.g., annual, perennial, hardy, half-hardy, and to appoint a Special Committee to give effect to the recommendation.—Carried and question of Special Committee left to Dominion Council.

LIBRARY:—

8 That the Dominion Council should look into the question of the establishment of a library for the Institute.

SEED RAISING:—

9 That the time has arrived for the establishment in New Zealand of the commercial production of vegetable and flower seeds.—Carried. On the motion of Mr. E. C. Gibbons a Special Committee was set up to deal with this matter and to report to the Dominion Council by the 31st March.

LODER CUP COMPETITION.

10 That, with a view to stimulating interest in the competition for the annual award of the Cup, the Loder Cup Committee be requested to publish a detailed record of the reasons for each award.

OTHER BUSINESS.

CONDOLENCE:—

The President referred in his address to the loss sustained by the Institute through the death of Mr. F. J. Nathan, Past President of the Institute and of Mr. J. A. Campbell, N.D.H. (N.Z.), Director of the Horticulture Division of the Department of Agriculture, and a motion recording the Institute's sympathy was directed to be conveyed to the relatives.

J. A. CAMPBELL MEMORIAL:—

Resolved:—“That a Committee representative of the Horticulture Division of the Department of Agriculture, the New Zealand Fruitgrowers' Federation, the New Zealand Institute of Horticulture, the New Zealand Horticultural Trades' Association, the Horticultural Seedsmen's Association, the Association of Directors of Parks and Reserves and other interested bodies should be set up to decide the steps to be taken for the collection of subscriptions and the form of memorial to the late Mr. J. A. Campbell.

FOREST PRESERVATION:—

Resolved: That the Hon. Minister in Charge of the Department of Internal Affairs, Lands and Survey and Forestry respectively be advised that this Conference thoroughly approves of what is being done with regard to forest preservation and the prevention of soil erosion. (Mrs. Knox Gilmer.)

GROUP B.:—

Resolved: That the Dominion Council be recommended to consider cases of hardship in respect of Group B.

CENTENNIAL MEMORIALS:—

Resolved: That this Conference welcomes and endorses the proposals from Auckland for the formation of a National Park of the Waitakere Ranges and would draw the attention of the Government and of Local Authorities to the desirability of tree planting and Bush Reservation as eminently suitable memorials for the Centennial. (Mr. N. R. W. Thomas.)

JOINT COMMITTEE:—

Resolved: That representation on the Joint Committee should be increased to two from each body, one from each body to form a quorum. (President.)—The President and Mrs. Knox Gilmer were elected as the Institute's representatives.

NATIONAL HORTICULTURAL WEEK, 1940:—

Invitation from the Wellington Horticultural Society to hold the National Flower Show at Wellington in 1940 (Centennial Year).—Resolved: That it be a recommendation to the Joint Committee that National Horticultural Week, 1940, be held at Wellington.

NATIONAL FLOWER SHOW, 1939:—

Resolved: That the Committee be congratulated for arranging such a wonderful National Flower Show, so ably staged with out-

standing floral magnificence and artistry. (Mrs. Knox Gilmer.)

VOTE FOR NATIONAL FLOWER:—

Mrs. Knox Gilmer suggested that, as the Kowhai had again secured the vote for the National Flower at the recent National Flower Show, representations should be made to the Government for its recognition as such.

THANKS:—

A vote of thanks was passed to (a) his Worship the Mayor for extending a civic welcome to delegates attending Horticultural Week, 1939; (b) Mrs. Knox Gilmer for officially opening the National Flower Show, 1939; (c) The National Horticultural Week and Flower Show Committee for running the National Flower Show so successfully and making such complete arrangements for the various Conferences, etc.; (d) the Committee which entertained the delegates and visiting ladies so hospitably; (e) the Press for publicity to National Horticultural Week and the National Flower Show; and (f) all others who contributed to the success of National Horticultural Week, 1939.

BANKS LECTURE:—

The Banks Lecture for 1939 was given in the Empire Theatre, New Plymouth, by Dr. H. H. Allan, Director of Botany Division, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Wellington. The lecture was most interesting to follow, well delivered and illustrated with excellent lantern slides. A copy of the lecture appears in this issue and it will be found to make a most worthy addition to those already published.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HORTICULTURE, 1939:—

The Ninth National Conference on Horticulture, held in New Plymouth, consisted of the Annual Meetings of the Institute, the New Zealand Horticultural Trades Association, the Horticultural Seedsmen's Association of New Zealand and the Association of Directors of Parks and Reserves.

Mr. Percy Thomson, President of the National Horticultural Week and National Flower Show Committee, 1939, presided at the official opening, and delegates were given a civic welcome by his Worship the Mayor, Mr. E. C. Gilmour. The National Flower Show was officially opened by Mrs. Knox Gilmer, Wellington, with an inspiring address. The Show was a wonderful display in spite of the inclement season, with exceptional attendances, and it reflects great credit on all the Bodies and officials concerned. The annual meetings of the national bodies mentioned followed after the first day of the Show and delegates, including the ladies, enjoyed many pleasant outings and social functions.

REVIEWS.**THE R.H.S. DAFFODIL YEAR BOOK, 1938.**

A publication such as the Royal Horticultural Society's Daffodil Year Book, is often filled with scientific and technical terms which at once confuse the average reader. In the present issue, however, the authors of the various articles have excelled themselves, in setting out in plain simple language, a wealth of knowledge and information which immediately interests the reader and easily enables him to grasp the valuable knowledge made available.

Opening with a tribute to the late Professor A. P. W. Thomas, of Auckland, the Year Book is packed full of most informative articles from the pens of men and women who are recognised authorities on the Daffodil.

A striking testimony to the universal popularity of the flower is revealed in the fact that the contributing authors have been selected from world-wide sources. This will be seen from such chapter headings as:—"Three Days in Holland"; "The Daffodil Hobby and Sentiment in Tasmania"; "Daffodils in British Columbia"; "Daffodils in Kenya Colony"; "Daffodils in Belgium"; "Daffodils in New Zealand" etc.

Various aspects of the Daffodil dealt with include Seedling Raising, Pedigrees, Indoor Decorations, Exhibition, and Diseases.

Daffodil shows throughout England are well reported as well as shows in Australia and New Zealand.

A Daffodil Ballot taken of varieties suitable for certain purposes provides an interesting chapter.

As usual, the Year Book is well illustrated and altogether reflects great credit on the Sub-Committee responsible for its publication. From the daffodil enthusiast's point of view, its value is inestimable.

—Herbert J. Poole.

THE R.H.S. LILY YEAR BOOK, 1938.

Although "lilies" have been grown in gardens for hundreds of years, it is only in recent times that the genus has received the attention it demands; in fact it is only since the Great War that the majority of gardeners have realised that the *Lilium* family is an amazingly widespread one, and that among the hundred odd varieties now in fairly general cultivation, there are varieties which will appeal to every taste.

Many gardeners hesitate to include lilies in their gardens because they believe them to be "difficult." Such, happily, is not the case with the big majority of varieties. They are emphatic in their likes and dislikes, but provided they are given reasonable consideration, repay their owner a hundredfold.

The *Lilium* is one of the most interesting flowers in cultivation, and although we now know how to grow it successfully, there is still much to learn about its habits, breeding and propagation. Those who would make a study of the genus and keep abreast of discoveries concerning it, cannot do better than read the "Lily Year Book," which is published by the Royal Horticultural Society, London. The 1938 edition contains much information of practical value

to the lily-grower, in addition to numerous articles of general interest. Particularly valuable is an article on lily-growing in New Zealand, by B. W. Doak, of Palmerston North. Those who have met Mr. Doak and seen his fine display of *Liliums*, will not need to be told that he is an authority on his subject. Mr. Doak has been experimenting with *Liliums* for a number of years, and his scientific training has enabled him to make considerably more progress than most of us. To the enthusiast, Mr. Doak's article alone will be considered worth the price of the book.

The gardener who has but a nodding acquaintance with *Liliums*, will find much to assist him under the chapter headed "A Beginner's Questions Answered." In this chapter, the questions most often asked are answered in a manner than can be quickly and thoroughly understood. The fascinating art of raising *Liliums* from seed is discussed by E. O. Clement, and will be read with interest by others who are building up their stocks in this manner.

Discussions at meetings of the Lily Group of the R.H.S. throughout the year are divided into three sections: (1) Hybrid Lilies; (2), Questions and Answers; (3), Lilies for Every Garden. These discussions, in which some of the leading English authorities take part, are unusually informative, and reveal numerous new discoveries and theories.

Articles on Fritillaries and *Nomocharis* are also included in the Year Book. These "Near Relations" of the lily tribe, are but little known in New Zealand, but as their charms are recognised, they are likely to become popular in those gardens which can provide the soil and aspect suited to them.

The Year Book is freely illustrated with excellent half-tones and diagrams, and provides a mass of information that should prove of considerable value.

—J. W. MATTHEWS.

EPIMEDIUM AND VANCOUVERIA (BERBERIDACEAE).

a Monograph by W. T. STEARN, F.L.S.

(The Linnean Society's Journal—Botany, Vol. 51, 1938, pp. 409—535.)

This volume gives a detailed taxonomic account of the genera, and a key to the cultivated species. Interspersed among the more technical matters are interesting references to the horticultural possibilities of these allies of the barberries. We read, e.g., "The elegance of their leaves and delicate yellow, white, pink, carmine, or violet blossoms and their accommodating ways make them excellent for furnishing shady ledges of the rock garden and between shrubs and trees."

—H.H.A.

INSTITUTE NOTES.

PREFIX (ROYAL):—His Excellency the Governor-General, Viscount Galway, has advised our President that His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve of the granting of permission to make use of the prefix "Royal" in the title of the Institute. The Dominion Council has respectfully requested that his Excellency should convey the Institute's thanks to his Majesty with the assurance of its continued loyalty.

EDUCATIONAL:—1938 Examinations: The following passes have been recorded:—Junior Certificate: Blaikie, C. W. N. (Palmerston North), G. D. Hyde (Christchurch), G. Lannie (Wellington), Miss P. R. Long and Miss M. M. Lysaght (Dunedin); M. Richards (Hastings); Intermediate Certificate: M. G. E. Barnett (Christchurch), J. A. Mashlan (Lower Hutt) and Miss K. M. O'Brien (Palmerston North); Diploma: G. H. Huthnance (New Plymouth), J. Lewis (London), F. J. Melhuish (Palmerston North), G. Millson (Blenheim), G. A. R. Petrie (Invercargill) and Miss C. G. Williams (Hastings).

PERSONAL:—Mr. W. K. Dallas, recently appointed Director of the Horticulture Division, Department of Agriculture, Wellington, and a member of the Dominion Council, was taken ill at Christchurch recently and has been granted lengthened sick leave. Mr. T. D. Lennie, Convener of Examiners at Christchurch and a member of the local District Council, met with an unfortunate accident at New Plymouth, when attending National Horticultural Week, 1939. Letters have been sent on behalf of the Dominion Council, hoping for speedy and complete recoveries.

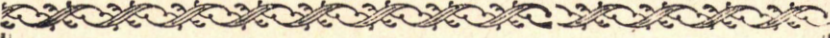
SOCIETY REPRESENTATION:—Captain S. Holm, Messrs. George Cooper and Hope B. Gibbons, all of Wellington, have been welcomed recently by the Dominion Council as the representatives of the Wellington Beautifying Society, Horticultural Seedmen's Association of New Zealand and the New Zealand Rock and Alpine Society respectively.

NEW ZEALAND CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION:—Mr. F. S. Pope, President, has been appointed as representative of the Institute on the Horticultural Committee of the New Zealand Centennial Exhibition.

DISTRICT COUNCILS:—Auckland.—Report for period 1936-38 and newspaper clippings of annual meeting on 20th December, 1938, have been received. Taranaki.—At a recent well attended monthly meeting, Mr. V. C. Davies gave an address on "Unusual Trees and Shrubs Suitable to New Plymouth." Canterbury.—Annual Meeting was held on 13th December, 1938. The Dominion Council and the Examining Board have expressed their appreciation of the Syllabus in Horticulture, 1939, prepared by the local District Council, for horticultural students at the Christchurch Technical College.

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Report and Proceedings of the XIIth International Horticultural Congress

The organisers of the XIIth International Horticultural Congress beg us to inform you that the "Report and Proceedings of the Congress" which will be published in a few weeks may also be purchased by non-participants if ordered at once. The Report and Proceedings will comprise two nicely bound and illustrated volumes which will be sold to purchasers abroad at the exceptional price of 16.-RM including postage (approximately £1/18/-). The Congress management begs to point out that it is necessary to order the books immediately as later on they may be sold out. This note does not concern the members of the Congress as they will receive the Report and Proceedings of the Congress free of charge and without further notice. In ordering the book please apply to: XIIth International Congress, Berlin, W.35, Potsdamerstr. 101. Remittances may be sent to the Postscheck-Konto of the Deutsche Gartenbau-Kredit A.G., Berlin, N.W.40, Postscheckamt Berlin, Konto-Nr. 25 431.