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CONTENTS :

	Page
Sunny Nelson; By G. S. Nicoll	57
Senecio "Alfred Atkinson"; By H. H. Allan	62
Tuition in Subjects for the Diploma	64
J. Scott Thomson	65
Naming of Garden Plants (R.H.S.)	67
Loder Cup Competition, 1942	68
Kiwi in Palace	69
New Zealand Alpine and Rock Garden Society	71
Acclimatization of Bulbs	73
Plant Recording: Strawberry "Melody"	74
Summary of Proceedings of Twentieth Annual Meeting	74
Institute Notes	77
Index to Vol. 12	79

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Journal of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture

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Wellington, April, 1943.

No. 4.

SUNNY NELSON.

(By G. S. Nicoll).

The Dominion Secretary mentioned at the March Executive Meeting of the Institute that his wife and himself had spent an enjoyable holiday in Nelson, and some notes are appended:—

“Various horticultural interests were contacted i.e., the Horticulture Division of the Department of Agriculture, State Forest Service, Cawthron Institute, Superintendent of Parks and Reserves, Mr. F. G. Gibbs, a member of the Institute and an outstanding botanist and many others.

Compared with a former visit some years ago, the most outstanding first impression was the improvement in and additions to City Reserves, including care of grass, bedding plants, shrubs and trees etc., and increased pride in private gardens and homes.

The District Supervisor of the Horticulture Division, Mr. N. J. Adamson, was in the midst of an extra busy season with the picking, grading and packing of a bumper crop of apples, pears etc. not to mention other crops, including supervision of vegetable growing. The assistance of the Army was greatly appreciated in various phases of the seasonal activities.

At the Cawthron Institute contacts were made with the Director, Sir Theodore Rigg, Nelson Vice-President of the Institute, and Dr. Miller, one of our examiners and an outstanding entomologist. Mr. W. C. Davies gave most interesting biological, entomological and general information, and his own photography is an outstanding feature of the Institute and also of its Museum.

Mr. A. White, Superintendent of Parks, kindly arranged visits to various reserves and beauty spots in the city and environs, and gave us a generous share of his valuable time and hospitality at his home.

Passing along the road to Port Nelson we saw the working of the reclamation scheme which still continues to add many acres yearly to the City Parks and Reserves.

Since 1937, eight full-sized croquet lawns, with pavilion and

shelters, also two hockey and two football grounds, have all been won back from the sea. Fifteen feet of spoil is required to raise the area up to its required level. The Bradford system is adopted whereby all the city refuse is covered with clay from the near by hills.

The Nelson Public Hospital was viewed and also the Nelson Boys' College, both with well-kept gardens. Near here, is the Old Cemetery Reserve, once an eyesore but now a beauty spot. One father, who had been recently transferred to Nelson, asked his wife, on returning home early in the evening, the whereabouts of the children. The reply, "They are playing in the Cemetery," rather staggered him until he realized the position.

This was the first Cemetery in Nelson but, owing to the swampy nature of the lower parts, only the higher portions were suitable for burial purposes. All this area has since been drained and a *Rhododendron Dell* is now making its presence known on the southern side with some fine Tulip Trees, Scarlet Oaks and Flowering Cherries. Among the rarer trees, a specimen of *Nyssa sylvatica* is growing well in a rather wet corner.

From the Queen's Drive on the Port Hills, we saw a panorama of the numerous inlets and beaches and "nowhere is the sand more golden or sea and sky more blue." The Boulder Bank, over seven miles long, on our right, makes a wonderful protection to the harbour with Haulshore Island and the Fifeshire Rock, standing sentinel over the entrance.

Quite near the Port is the City's Sand Reserve at Tahuna with its excellent beach and Motor Camp, with electric light and power for cooking and other amenities, well sheltered with trees and nicely carpeted with grass.

Near by is a model yacht pond and well-equipped children's playground, but all of these are secondary to the safe, clean and most colourful Tahuna beach, which can well pride itself on never having claimed a victim!

A fine view of the orchard and hop-growing district, including beautiful snow-clad Mount Arthur, was also seen from the Port Hills. A beautiful *Wellingtonia gigantea*, planted about fifty years ago, has a tablet to the memory of Captain Arthur Wakefield, founder of the province, who was killed in the Wairau massacre. This tree bears the following label:—"This tree was planted by William Songer to commemorate the hoisting of the British flag on this spot by Captain Arthur Wakefield of the New Zealand Company on December 13th, 1841.

From this same eminence, Mr. Nicholas, City Overseer, described the source, catchment area and other details of the city's inexhaustible water supply. Would that a similar scheme could come true in Wellington!

On the return trip we saw more of Nelson's activities at the

City Council's workshops and stores, and admired the well-equipped mess room. Another feature was the wholesome piggery. It was mentioned that many householders have been provided with receptacles for household refuse with which to feed the pigs.

Since our former visit, the Cathedral Hill has become a terraced City Reserve, with well-kept grassy banks and beautiful flower beds which set off the many fine trees. To mark the centenary of Nelson, the Church Hill was re-designed as a centennial memorial. Without losing any of its tradition of historic trees and old redoubts, erected by the people in defence of the city, about a century ago, the whole hill, originally the site of Port Arthur, has been remodelled. Terraced gardens now take the place of barren clay banks. These stone walls are well furnished and festooned with a variety of ornamental subjects. The Cawthron steps were slightly altered to form a dais on the second landing and a suitable plaque will also be incorporated.

Later in the week, Mr. A. White kindly arranged a visit to the Waterworks Reserve, three miles out and at the head of the Brook Street Valley. We were amazed at the volume of water running over the spillways of the lower and upper reservoirs and at the wonderful foresight of the city benefactors whose prescience had resulted in the reservation of the source of water supply, an immense catchment area and its native bush. The walk through the bush on the track, alongside the creek from the reservoirs, is most pleasant and restful and a liberal education to any lover of our native flora.

We were also shown the basin of the former reservoir wherein, it is understood, a picture film was made of water and underwater scenes with Miss Annette Kellerman, the famous Australian swimmer. Beside the caretaker's residence there is an outstanding specimen of a well-laden Walnut tree.

One must not omit to mention the row of Lime trees, *Tilia europaea*, on the Nile Street boundary of the Nelson Central School. The uniformity of the whole row and the beauty of each individual specimen are truly remarkable. The only drawback is that "Unter den Linden" is another reminder of Berlin in the form of air raid trenches for the school children.

The ascent of Botanical Hill, the trigonometrical centre of New Zealand, is practically mandatory to every visitor to Nelson, as was the climb to the top of the Water Tower at Invercargill in our younger days. (A friend, who had travelled the world and had seen all the sights, obstinately refused to climb the Water Tower because everyone kept asking him if he had done so). On account of the height of the trees at the summit, we were advised to observe the views during the ascent, but all the views were wonderful, including Tasman Bay, the lovely Maitai Valley and the Grampian Hills. The extent of the tomato growing industry could be gauged

from the acres of glass. Fine plantings of well-selected natives have been made by the City Reserves in this appropriate setting and these alone are well worth a visit.

Wigzell's Gardens, near the Hospital, although small, are very effective with brick-coloured paths and variety of rare trees. Here are good specimens of *Cercidiphyllum Japonicum*, *Aesculus Indica*, *Cladrastis tinctoria* and *Acer griseum*.

Queen's Gardens were quite handy for us, and several visits were made to this paradise of water, fringed with lawns, splendid native and exotic trees, shrubs and flower beds. Fine specimens of *Phoenix Canariensis* luxuriate with their roots in the water, giving a truly tropical effect. Other outstanding trees are the *Albizzia Julibrissin*, the Camphor tree *Cinnamomum Camphora* and the *Ginkgo biloba*.

No visitor should miss the Suter Art Gallery, in memory of Bishop Suter, with its wonderful paintings, including a fine collection by our outstanding New Zealand artist, John Gully, who lived in Nelson. The Gallery has an appropriate and wonderful setting in the Queen's Gardens near the Bridge Street entrance.

The finest specimen, in the South Island, of the Maidenhair Tree, *Ginkgo biloba*, is to be seen growing in the garden of Miss Jones, Maitai bank, near the Queen's Gardens.

Mention must also be made of the City Reserves Nursery with its one hundred and thirty feet of glass, collections of Flowering Cherries, Silky Oaks, Copper Beeches and biennial plants in variety.

We were rather astonished to see a fine puriri, *Vitex lucens*, with flowers and fruit, near the entrance to the Queen's Gardens, and the karaka, *Corynocarpus laevigata*, also familiar to North Islanders, was prominent here and all over the city, though the berries, and possibly the leaves, seemed somewhat smaller. It appears, however, that Nelson, which is approximately on the same latitude as Wellington and has a naturally warmer climate, is congenial to a fairly representative collection of North Island species which are found nowhere else in the South Island.

Anzac Park, which is almost a square, is at the other end of the city and is well worth a visit for the beauty of its trees, shrubs, flower beds and well kept lawns, and all in direct contrast to the adjacent business area.

The Maitai Valley is ideal for an enjoyable walk, and its beautiful river, with its clear mountain water and pebbly bottom, flows through a great part of the residential area. A path along most of the western bank provides a pleasant walk on well kept grass with fine trees to shelter from the sun.

A visit was made to Motueka and Riwaka, where the fruit, hop, tobacco, etc., industries were viewed in their various phases.

In no other district can be seen "the picturesque hop gardens, the level fields, green with tobacco plants, and acre upon acre of luscious fruit, all growing side by side."

“The Motueka river, renowned for its fishing, winds between the golden poplars of this pleasant valley of Motueka, centre of Nelson’s hop and tobacco growing area.”

It is certainly a most interesting and charming drive from Nelson to Motueka and Riwaka. Apart from the outstanding examples of close settlement and intensive cultivation, the combination of fine stands of forest trees and beautiful inlets of the sea was a sheer delight.

In Nelson City, the growth of Zinnias, Marigolds and Petunias is phenomenal, as is also the height of Dahlias and Cosmeas, without staking. Bignonia, Bougainvillea, Ipomea, Passiflora, Plumbago and many other creepers run riot. The glory of Nelson, however, is in its beautiful trees, which owe their symmetry and height to the absence of wind and continuous sunshine. Vigorous and colourful shrubs are found everywhere, both in public and private gardens and in many streets, which are also lined with fine trees. One must not omit mention of the Rotary Club’s fine centennial gift of the Cherry tree glade in Halifax Street.

Although a jobbing gardener remarked to the writer that “many people come to Nelson to die” we certainly found it a most desirable place in which to live and ideal for a holiday. Since our return, we have been surprised to find what a small proportion of our friends and acquaintances have visited a place so handy as Nelson. It is certainly a treat in store.

SENECIO "ALFRED ATKINSON."
(By H. H. Allan, Honorary Botanist.)

In New Zealand gardens devoted to the cultivation of native plants there have appeared from time to time chance hybrids of great interest, and occasionally of distinct horticultural value. One of the most remarkable of these sprang up in the garden (a garden full of fascinating things) of Mr. W. A. Thomson, of "Fern-tree House," Dunedin. This is a cross between the yellow-flowered herb of the southern tussock grasslands, *Senecio southlandicus*, and that most handsome shrub of north-western Nelson and Westland, *Senecio Hectori*. The hybrid is a free-growing, spreading, semi-herbaceous plant bearing large trusses of pale primrose-yellow flowers. It is sterile, but propagates readily from cuttings, and is destined to achieve a permanent place in rock-gardens.

It seems that *Senecio Hectori*, although isolated under natural conditions, can be as well disposed in gardens towards its congeners of the north as of the south. In Mr. Stewart Duncan's garden at "Linden Vale," Tawa Flat (another delightful garden where the unexpected meets you at almost every turn), are a pair of beautiful shrubs growing so close together that the whole forms a leafy mass some seven feet tall and ten feet in diameter. In the past season it has been the special pride of its owner, with its crowning glory of massed white flowers, slightly yellow-tinged in the opening stages.

Mr. Duncan tells us, "Some five years ago Mr. Alfred Atkinson showed me a plant in his garden at York Bay in leaf resembling *Senecio Hectori*, which he considered must be one parent. A cutting of this plant was struck successfully; and when Mr. and Mrs. Atkinson later visited my garden it had grown into a handsome bush, and was flowering. When Mr. Atkinson saw it he exclaimed, "Oh! It's in flower!" and remarked that his plant had never flowered. An examination of the flowers convinced him that the other parent was *Senecio perdicoides* (a pleasant well-foliaged shrub with corymbs of yellow flowers, confined in nature to forest margins from Hicks Bay to Mahia Peninsula, but fairly well-known in gardens).

Meeting Mr. Atkinson some months later, I asked him how his "curiosity plant," as he was in the habit of calling it, was getting on. "Don't talk to me about it," was his reply, "it's gone and died." The plant attracted considerable attention and admiration, and the New Zealand Native Plant Preservation Society's executive committee suggested that it would be a handsome acquisition to public parks and gardens throughout New Zealand. Meanwhile Mr. Atkinson had passed away on 16th March, 1941, but Mrs. Atkinson readily consented to its distribution, and propagation with that object in view is being carried out."

I was privileged to examine the plant on 10th January, 1943.



Senecio "Alfred Atkinson" in garden of Mr Stewart Duncan,
Lindenvale, Tawa Flat, Wellington.

Unfortunately the dry spell had hastened flowering, so that the shrub was past its best, and the illustration does not do full justice to a plant well worthy of the "Award of Merit." Perhaps our Institute will take up the question of giving awards of merit to worthy derivatives of our indigenous flora, an honour that, if not too lavishly bestowed, would awaken interest in the possibilities of our native plants, and encourage the search for and production of novelties of distinct merit. As Senecio "Alfred Atkinson" becomes better known through the generous action of Mr. Duncan, it will be more and more appreciated as a very striking addition to the list of New Zealand's famous shrubby plants. The ease of vegetative propagation will facilitate this, though it may prove that the shrub is rather tender in the more southern localities.

Senecio Hectorsi appears definitely to be one of the parents and it is probable, as suggested by Mr. Atkinson, that Senecio perdicoides is the other. In the absence of certainty, however, I give it the horticultural name of Senecio "Alfred Atkinson," with the following description: A soft-wooded, much-branched, spreading shrub, well-foliaged and in season very floriferous. The young branchlets

are purplish and the immature leaves covered with dense, soft, buff-coloured hairs. The adult leaves are rather shortly stalked, about five to eight inches long, more or less elliptic—oblong in outline, rather soft in texture, light green above, paler below, with a thin covering of whitish hairs. The margins are somewhat waved, finely and sharply toothed. Towards the base of the blade are a few deeper incisions, sometimes forming distinct pinnules, a character strongly reminiscent of the *Hectori* parent.

The flower heads are produced in terminal corymbs, usually massed together, so that the whole bush in a good season is flower-covered. The individual heads are about one inch across, with about eight rather narrow white ray florets (more or less creamy yellow when young) surrounding the bright yellow disc.

TUITION IN SUBJECTS FOR THE DIPLOMA.

Students who are studying for the Diploma, especially in the junior and intermediate grades, may be able to secure assistance in their work by enrolling themselves in classes that come under the control of the Education Department. If the student is near a centre where evening classes are conducted (generally by a technical school or a secondary school), he may find that there is already in operation a class that will in some measure meet his requirements. In some of the bigger centres there has in the past been little difficulty in forming a class composed largely of students of horticulture; in the smaller centres, a combination of interests is necessary to ensure a class being formed, and of course such an event is not always possible.

The Education Department's Correspondence School, however, caters especially for pupils who, for one reason or another, are not able to reach ordinary schools or classes. Instruction is also given to part-time students in certain subjects; and we are informed by the Department that when no technical classes are available in the vicinity of the student's home, and when satisfactory arrangements can be made by the headmaster, students for the Diploma may enrol in the Correspondence School and receive tuition, including assignments of work, corrections and model answers, by post. Subjects that could be provided by the Correspondence School include Chemistry and General Experimental Science, and probably Horticultural Botany and the Principles of Plant Protection. The provisions of the Free Place regulations apply to these classes; that is, tuition will be free if the student takes at least two subjects of the course, provided that he has not already had five years or more of free post-primary education.

Students interested in such tuition should, in the first place, get in touch with the Headmaster, Correspondence School, Education Department, Wellington, C.1.



IN MEMORIAM.

J. SCOTT THOMSON.

By the death of Mr. J. Scott Thomson, the Dominion has lost one of its foremost horticulturists, and the Institute a valued friend and supporter.

Born on June 30th, 1882, in Dunedin, he passed the whole of his life there. Taking up chemistry as his profession, he became a Fellow of the Chemical Society and served as a member of the widely known firm of Thomsons Ltd., founded by his father. Here his scientific outlook and training were of considerable value, and he soon became a well-known and respected member of the business community.

Of excellent physique and active habits he early became pro-

minent as a footballer, being a member of the famous Pirates Club and, for a period, captain of the senior team. Later his energy found vent in alpine work, as a member of the Alpine Club, while his thoughts and interests became more and more directed to the plant life of the higher country. As a field photographer he came to excel, and many of his studies gained wide appreciation.

His name, associated with that of his colleague over many years, Mr. George Simpson, became identified with botanical and horticultural work, and it is in these phases of his career that he gained repute throughout the country and abroad, and received the recognition of the Fellowship of the Linnean Society and as Honorary Botanist on the staff of the Otago Museum. With Mr. Simpson, he was awarded the Loder Cup in 1936, and in 1939 was elected an Honorary Fellow of the Institute.

His garden, devoted to native plants, became world-famous, and is a living tribute to his wide excursions into the mountains, his unbounded energy, his skill as a propagator, and his rare combination of scientific interest and aesthetic appreciation. All New Zealand botanists endeavoured to visit this garden and learn at first hand something of the store of lessons it and its creator could teach. It was not felt that duty had been done until every visiting botanist had been given an opportunity of seeing such a great proportion of our flora brought together for study and delight.

Of especial importance was his successful pioneering work on growing difficult natives in a well-designed serec garden. Accounts of this were published in our journal for June 1938 and June 1942.

Mr. Thomson delivered the Banks Lecture for 1935, choosing as his subject, "Some Aspects of the Vegetation and Flora of South Island." This was illustrated by his remarkably fine set of lantern slides, and published in our journal for March 1935. The reproductions in this and in his paper with Mr. Simpson on "Some characteristic South Island Mountain Plants" (N.Z. Alpine Journal, Vol. 7, 1938) give a good idea of his photographic skill.

Of his more purely botanical work, achieved in collaboration with Mr. Simpson, Dr. Holloway has written: "During the period 1926-42 they had in all some fourteen papers to their credit on such diverse botanical topics as mountain and forest vegetation, systematics, distribution, forest soil acidity, wild hybrids, and the cultivation of native plants, some of these papers appearing in New Zealand scientific journals and others overseas."

To his widow and son the Institute offers its deepest sympathy.

NAMING OF GARDEN PLANTS.

This problem has been discussed at various international horticultural conferences in London and elsewhere. At the International Horticultural Conference in London in 1930 the following rules were drawn up. They have been published in the Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society, vol. LXVII, part 10, October, 1942, and were

included as an appendix to the International Rules of Botanical Nomenclature in 1935.

(a) The name of a horticultural "variety" should be placed after that of the species to which it belongs, and its status should, in general, be indicated by the contraction "var."

(b) The varietal name should be of Latin form only when it expresses some character of the plant, e.g., *nanus*, *fastigiatus*, *albus*, or its place of origin, e.g., *kewensis*.

(c) The name will thus usually be a "fancy" name, beginning with a capital letter, e.g., *Galega officinalis* var. "George Hartland" (not *Galega officinalis* var. *Hartlandii*); *Dianthus deltoides* var. "Brilliant; Pea Masterpiece."

(d) Varietal names must not be translated when transferred from other languages, but must be preserved in the language in which they were originally described. Where desirable a translation may be placed in brackets after the varietal name.

(e) As far as possible names of horticultural varieties should consist of a single word; the employment of not more than three words is permitted as a maximum.

(1) A varietal name in use for one variety of a kind of plant should not be used again for another variety of that kind, even though it may be attached to a different species.

Thus the use of the name *Narcissus Pseudonarcissus* "Victoria" should preclude the use of "Victoria" as a varietal name for any other species of *Narcissus*, such as *Narcissus poeticus* "Victoria." Similarly, there should be but one *Iris* "Bridesmaid," one Plum "Superb" and so on.

(2) Varietal names likely to be confused with one another should be avoided. For instance, the use of the name "Alexander" should preclude the use of "Alexandra," "Alexandria," and "Alexandrina" as varietal names for the same kind of plant.

(3) Where personal names are used to designate varieties, the prefixes "Mr.," "Mrs.," "Miss" and their equivalents should be avoided.

(4) Excessively long words and words difficult to pronounce should be avoided in coining varietal names.

(5) The articles "a" and "the" and their equivalents should be avoided in all languages when they do not form an integral part of a substantive, e.g., "Colonel," not "The Colonel," "Giant," not "The Giant"; "Bride," not "The Bride."

(6) Existing names in common use should not be altered to conform to these rules, but attention should be paid to them in all new names proposed.

(f) The names of horticultural hybrids are formed as provided in the International Rules of Botanical Nomenclature. If a Latin name has been given to a hybrid form of uncertain origin which cannot be referred to a Latin binomial it must be treated like a

vernacular (fancy) name; e.g., *Rhododendron* "Atrosanguineum," *Rhododendron* "Purpureum grandiflorum."

(g) All plants raised by crossing the same two species receive the same "specific" name, variations between the seedlings being indicated where necessary by varietal names framed as already described (a—c). In practice in crossed plants the specific name is frequently omitted; e.g., *Iris* "Ambassadeur."

(h) Publication. In order to be valid a name must be published.

1. The publication of a name of a horticultural variety or hybrid is effected by a recognizable description, with or without a figure, in any language written in Roman characters.

2. The description must appear in a recognized horticultural or botanical periodical, or in a monograph or other scientific publication, or in a dated horticultural catalogue.

3. The mention of a variety without description in a catalogue or in the report of an exhibition is not valid publication, even when a figure is given. It is desirable that descriptions of new varieties in horticultural catalogues should also be published in periodical horticultural papers.

LODER CUP COMPETITION, 1942.

The Loder Cup was presented by the late Gerald W. Loder, afterwards Lord Wakehurst, of Sussex, to be competed for annually in accordance with such conditions as might be approved by the Minister of Agriculture, in whose custody the cup was placed.

Under the present rules the award is to be made to any properly nominated person or body of persons, whether corporate or incorporate, who or which has excelled all other nominees, in the year of the award, in furthering the wishes of the donor as engraved on the cup:—"To encourage the protection and cultivation of the incomparable flora of the Dominion."

For the year ended 30th November, 1942, the award has been made to Mr. A. W. Wastney, of Glen Road, Wakapuaka, Nelson, who was nominated by the Royal Society of New Zealand, the Otago Branch of the Royal Society, the Nelson Philosophical Society, and the Dunedin Horticultural Society.

Mr. Wastney has an unrivalled knowledge of the botanical resources of the Nelson Province, and has taken especial interest in the horticultural possibilities of the various species.

This knowledge and his exceptional powers of observation have been freely at the service of all scientists and horticulturists, to whom Mr. Wastney has frequently acted as guide and collector. He has also shown zeal for the preservation of the flora, especially in his own province. The late Dr. L. Cockayne often expressed his keen appreciation of the services rendered by Mr. Wastney and of his skill and knowledge.

In his private garden for some twenty years, Mr. Wastney has

devoted special attention to the native plants of New Zealand, and has succeeded with such difficult genera as *Poranthera*, *Scutellaria*, *Dracophyllum*, *Carmichaelia*, and others. This garden gives ample evidence of his unusual gifts as a propagator and cultivator.

Of special moment is the valuable work he has done in demonstrating methods of collecting and storing seed of native plants. With *Nothofagus* especially he has developed methods of bulk collection and distribution. His studies of New Zealand beeches led him to be the first to recognize and remark on the occurrence of hybridism in this group, and to demonstrate the distinctions between the important timber tree, red and hard beech. Dr. L. Cockayne has recognized his priority in this field and has written:—

“Quite independently of my work, Ranger Wastney showed in a paper published in the Forest Service Newsletter that the Marlborough species of *Nothofagus* hybridised.”

His continued expert and ungrudging assistance to others has made his work of far more than local value, while overseas botanists have taken full advantage of his services.

KIWI IN PALACE.

The following is an extract from a letter to his wife from 34910, Sergeant I. B. Compton, 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force, Wellington, formerly of Hastings, and son-in-law of the Dominion Secretary:—

“Well, to cut a long story short and to ease the tension, let me inform those concerned that I have taken up residence and set up office in none other than the Governor-General’s Palace in Tripoli. Sounds good, does it not? We are settled comfortably and the rest of this palatial building is taken up by others of our boys.

Believe me, in peace time, these Italian Governors must have held some wizard receptions, etc. Talk about splendour—it does not require much imagination to see how things must have been. I will try and give you some indication of what the place is like, but am afraid I will not do it justice. Nevertheless here goes.

Firstly, wouldn’t Dad like to have a look round the gardens? They contain just about everything from sunken gardens to tiled pools with powerful electric lights playing in them and lighting up the fountains, also a lemon orchard with paths bordered by small herbaceous borders winding through, a sunken garden prolific with shrubs of all types and in this is set a small artistic band rotunda covered with mauve *Bougainvillea*; a rose garden enclosed on one side with arches covered with creeper roses, palms of all types and velvety smooth lawns, and among all this is set the building itself.

The grounds at the back of the building are practically the same, with tiled pools and fountains, rose arbours, etc. I have seen photographs of the grounds, taken at night during a reception, and these give an idea of how beautiful it must have been, especially on

state or festive occasions when all the gardens, and the guests, were lit up and the fountains playing.

These naturally romantic Italians must have had a lot of fun here, and that fact is evidenced when one sees the two rooms full of crockery and glassware down in the basement. There are only two designs, one of fragile coloured glass and the other plain cream frosted glass, banded in gold and very beautiful. Of course, it is absolutely the best and when one considers how many hundreds of pieces there are in each set, one wonders what the cost must have been. Included are several plates, which no doubt were used for savouries and sandwiches, which are of glassware and about four feet long! There are cupboards upon cupboards of goblets and every type of drinking glass and, of course, the Kiwis (New Zealanders) are not letting all this go to waste. Everyone is eating off plates again and the glasses are being utilized for all manner of things including ash trays and shaving mugs. What utter sacrilege when one thinks of the superb workmanship! It is a pity that no cutlery has been found. The fleeing Italian Governor and staff must have been able to find room for that, worse luck!

The interior decoration is just what one would expect of such a place—tiles and marble columns in the Entrance Hall—nothing garishly modern but rich in its ornate sedateness and yet, with all that, the Italian touch is very evident. All rooms are connected by house automatic telephone and the electric fittings leave nothing to be desired. In the basement, we found a room devoted entirely to electric light fittings and globes, both for inside and outside use. Also we found a room full of boxes of photographs and books. It nearly broke my heart to find that not one book was printed in English. Of books there were thousands—hundreds of them, still in their wrappers, had never been opened. There are some wonderful volumes, especially on art and aircraft. Marshal Balbo, a fairly recent Governor, was an "air crank," and hence the large amount of air literature. You may remember that he was in charge of an aerial armada, which flew to New York and back a few years ago, and also that, near the beginning of the war, he was killed in an aircraft accident under suspicious circumstances. He must have been a vain fellow, judging by the vast number of photographs of himself. He was also the author of several books.

I have searched throughout the city, but there is nothing worth buying. I wonder if the general condition and standard of the merchandise is any criterion of the situation inside Italy itself!"

NEW ZEALAND ALPINE AND ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY.

The following extracts from recent News Letters of the New Zealand Alpine and Rock Garden Society, written by Miss Erica Baillie, N.D.H. (N.Z.), Secretary, 18 Fitzroy Street, Wellington,

should prove of interest:—

February, 1943:—“Now Sedums are not used as much as they might be. They are a class of plants that are rather overlooked. It is only in recent years that I have been interested in them. During my stay in England I visited Dr. Guiseppi, the Treasurer of the British Alpine Garden Society. He was giving me a collection of *Sempervivums* and said “What about *Sedum*?” and I said “No, I’m not interested in them.” He looked rather pityingly at me but said nothing. Since coming home I have become quite interested and have realized how valuable they are in dry and difficult spots.

Sedum album has been forming masses of white flowers over the tiny green sausage shaped leaves during January. It ramps far too much for the more select parts of the garden, but if you have a hard piece of ground you want covered try *Sedum album*, but not too near more precious things on the rock garden. This year I used it most effectively as a border plant in a narrow dry garden under a bay window, where it was a great success. There is a charming pink form of this to be had. They are both rather useful as cut flowers for small bowls inside the house too. Height about six inches. *S. dasphyllum* at its highest is two inches, frail stems and little globules of bluey-grey leaves. Flowers are a foam of small tinted pink. A very similar species has woolly grey leaves. These are not so exuberant as *album* and are charming in dry crevices. *Sedum spathifolium* has a name far too big, and its variety *purpureum* is even worse! But they are charming little glaucous rosettes forming close fat clumps. I find that this *Sedum* enjoys slightly richer fare and more moisture than most of its relations. *S. Sieboldii* is a dear little trailing plant for a sheltered corner. It has grey-green flat leaves arranged in threes on a trailing stem, which ends in a head of pink flower in late summer. It dies back in the winter, but shoots again in the spring. *S. Sieboldii* is often seen grown as a pot plant or used in hanging baskets.

March, 1943:—

“AUTUMN.

In Winter you take a nice book from the shelf:

(The ground is so hard that you can’t do a thing but read
about gardens and hope for the Spring).

In Springtime you wish, though the daffodils glow,

That Summer would come and that Winter would go.

But in Autumn you gird up your loins, my son;

For that’s when the work in a garden is done.

R. Arkell.

The little verse came from “Green Fingers Again” by Reginald Arkell. As most gardeners know, and quote “Green Fingers” and “More Green Fingers,” I was delighted to come upon this little new companion for them, and I thought you perhaps would like to hear of it too.

"Natural Rock Gardening" by B. H. B. Symons-Jeune, has been added to the Library this month. This is a study of the construction of rock gardens based on the natural structure and condition of rock formation. Planting and selection of plants is included, and the book contains many photographs and diagrams. This is a most interesting book and one that is well worth reading, particularly if one is considering building a new rock garden, for the ideal set-out is good, though rather elaborate for most of us. It shows the garden as a picture, rather than a jumble of rocks.

Phlox is among the first rate rock plants. Last year I had a good collection, and I hope that in future I shall be able to keep a good stock always on hand, but this year, unfortunately, I have only two or three. *Phlox amoena* has broad oval leaves and heads of deep pink on six to nine inch stems in early Summer. It enjoys light, rich, well-drained soil. *P. subulata* in its various forms is the most commonly grown rock Phlox, and *Camlaensis*, or *Camla*, is, for its kind, a big rampant plant with large flowers of soft clear pure pink. "*Camla*" was raised by Mr. F. W. Millard, V.M.H., in his very famous garden, named *Camla*. I spent a very pleasant afternoon with Mr. Millard during my stay in England, and I know that anything that comes from there is sure to be first class. Mr. Millard is an invalid, who can move about very little, but he can, and does, direct the work of his garden, and he is able to sit at his potting bench, and deal with all his own stuff himself, while around him collect the celebrated gardeners of England.

Gentians. I am listing two. One, the well known but very temperamental *acaulis*, and the other *septemfida*, which, though it is without the very high reputation of *acaulis*, is quite charming, and very much easier to manage. The last-mentioned, I am told, has no objection to lime, thrives without it, and is not fussy as to soil. It bears heads of bright blue on twelve-inch stems in summer. There is a good plant of this at Riddiford Park, in fact our stock came from seed collected there. *Acaulis* is lovely, one of the loveliest of all alpine plants, but, as I say, it is temperamental and may or, may not, flower with you. It it does not flower in one spot, try moving it somewhere else in the garden. I have a neighbour who tried it on her rock garden, and it did nothing, so she moved it round the corner of the house into a small flat and rather shady bed, now it occupies the entire bed and is a sheet of blue in the spring. I fancy young plants flower better than old, so in spring or autumn, when your plant will allow it, take off pieces with a little root attached and replant, and you should have no trouble at all in starting a vigorous young plantation, but I cannot promise you masses of flowers."

ACCLIMATIZATION OF BULBS.

The following is an extract from a letter recently received from Mr. A. W. Anderson, Superintendent of Parks and Reserves, Timaru:—"Some time ago a bulb grower in New York, who is interested in the export of tulips to South America, asked me about the commercial acclimatization of bulbs from the northern hemisphere in New Zealand. I think it might be worth while for the Institute to gather information and publish the findings in its journal."

The Executive Council decided to have a note published in the Journal that the Institute would be pleased to hear of experiences with bulbs, particularly tulips, imported from the northern hemisphere. Apart from this publication, Mr. Peter Black, of Palmerston North, was specially requested to give his personal experiences in this connection, and the following reply has been received:—

"Your letter of inquiry about imported bulbs to hand.

Although we have handled a good many packages of imported bulbs both from Holland and England, we are afraid we cannot condition of the bulbs when landed and their subsequent behaviour give very valuable advice about them. It would appear that the when planted up, depend largely upon the treatment they received in the country of origin.

Before the war the people in Holland, and probably also the people in England, had made a special study of preparing bulbs for export to the Southern Hemisphere. Hyacinths, Tulips and Narcissus were the bulbs that had been most closely studied, and the objects of the inquiry and experiments were to so pre-treat the bulbs as to retard their growth and induce them to fit into our seasons with the same ease as locally grown stock. In other words, the bulbs were retarded six months, for obviously that is the difference between Northern and Southern Hemisphere seasons.

We can say that the specially prepared Hyacinths were very good indeed and came into step with our own grown bulbs very well, but the cost was fifty per cent. higher than ordinary stock. Tulips gave unpredictable results. Some sorts were passably good, while others were a complete failure.

When dealing with ordinary unprepared stock, we found that it was always best to purchase the highest possible quality irrespective of price, but even then, it took not less than two years to acclimatize bulbs to our seasons. There is no trouble with Narcissus or Gladiolus. Tulips are the worst to handle.

Another factor influencing the behaviour of imported bulbs is the weather. They usually land here about the middle of summer when the weather is hot, and dry, and these are the two conditions detested by Tulips. If planted fairly deep and watered, results seem to be a bit better, but I do not know of any easy way of acclimatizing them.

PLANT RECORDING.

STRAWBERRY "MELODY," RAISED BY ARTHUR G. SAINSBURY,
MANGERE, VIA OTAHUHU.

RAISER'S DESCRIPTION:—A seedling of Capt. Cook and Delicatessen, than which it is more robust and a better cropper. Fruit, size and flavour are equal to Capt. Cook, the standard of quality. Shape symmetrical conical; colour glossy crimson. Flesh pink and not quite so firm as "Victory." Ripens early and continues to crop well into the month of January. Flower truss bold on short prostrate stem, fertile; strong trusses thrown up as early as mid-June, indicating suitability for forcing under glass. Leaves rather numerous, shading the fruit well; dark green moderately serrated. Runners fairly numerous and very strong."

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF TWENTIETH ANNUAL MEETING.

The Twentieth Annual Meeting was held in the Board Room, Commercial Travellers' Building, Wellington, on Thursday, 28th January, 1943, at 10 a.m.

The Annual Meetings of the New Zealand Florists' Telegraphic Exchange and of the New Zealand Horticultural Trades Association were held at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. respectively on the previous day and at the same place. The Annual Meeting of the Horticultural Seedsmen's Association of New Zealand was held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, 26th January, in the Board Room of Messrs. F. Cooper Ltd., Dixon Street, Wellington.

ROLL CALL: In addition to the President, Mr. Hope B. Gibbons, the following were present:—

Hawkes Bay District:—Mr. C. W. Corner.

Taranaki District:—Mr. V. C. Davies.

Wellington District:—Mrs. Knox Gilmer, Messrs. Geo. Cooper, W. K. Dallas, E. Hutt, Wm. C. Hyde, J. G. MacKenzie, A. McMillan, G. S. Nicoll, J. C. Stirling, and T. Waugh.

Canterbury District:—Messrs. E. C. Gibbons, T. D. Lennie and J. N. McLeod.

APOLOGIES:—Dr. H. H. Allan, Messrs. A. W. Anderson, M. J. Barnett, J. G. C. MacKenzie, J. A. McPherson, L. F. Sired and A. White.

CONDOLENCE:—The President referred to the loss sustained by the Institute in the death of Sir Robert A. Anderson, C.M.G., Southland Vice-President, and Dr. W. M. Thomson, Taranaki Vice-President. He stated that sympathy had already been conveyed to the relatives, and a motion of condolence was passed in the usual manner.

MINUTES OF NINETEENTH ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE:—Held at Wellington on Thursday, 26th February, 1942 (as circulated in the Institute's Journal of April, 1942—pages 81-85) were confirmed.

CONFERENCE 1942, RESOLUTIONS AND REMITS:—Report on action taken regarding these was adopted.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS:—In welcoming the delegates present and particularly those from outside Wellington, the President stated that the practice of horticulture, whether for provision of food or pleasure to the eye, acts as an antidote to all disagreeable episodes; a calling or pastime so close to nature naturally creates and retains friends. It was desirable and important that, in the stress of the times, everything in our power should be done to encourage and facilitate the art of horticulture in all its branches. The Institute congratulates those horticultural societies which have had the heart to continue their shows. The success achieved had fully justified the risk taken, but it was suggested that more attention should be given to the vegetable section. With the great increase in home production, there appeared to be an excellent opportunity of adding to the practical side of horticultural shows. The number of candidates for the previous year's examination had shown a decrease, mainly owing to war conditions. After the peace, more practical work and technical study will be required, especially in any section of horticulture, and the Institute's diplomas will be passports to lucrative positions.

EXECUTIVE AND EXAMINING BOARD'S REPORTS AND STATEMENT OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS as published in the Journal of December, 1942, were adopted on the motion of the President after the passing of a resolution that these be taken as read.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:—All officers from last year were re-elected. Dr. J. G. Macdonald and Mr. J. C. McDowall were elected Vice-Presidents for Southland and Taranaki respectively in place of Sir Robert A. Anderson and Dr. W. M. Thomson, deceased.

HONORARY AUDITOR:—Mr. J. L. Arcus was re-appointed with a vote of thanks and appreciation for conveyance.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF HORTICULTURE:—A resolution of thanks, appreciation and best wishes was directed to be conveyed to Mr. A. H. Cockayne, retired Director-General of Agriculture, an Honorary (N.Z.) Fellow of the Institute, a member of its Executive Council and Examining Board and a former Convener of Examinations. Congratulations were also requested to be conveyed to his successor, Mr. E. J. Fawcett, M.A.

ARMY EDUCATION:—Colonel D. G. Ball gave an interesting and instructive address on Army education. They had full co-operation with Government Departments, firms and individuals, but the greatest assistance possible was desired from organizations and in-

dividuals. Twenty-seven courses were being prepared on diverse subjects, but there is no limit of number if the subject is worth while. Valued assistance in Agriculture had been given by the Department of Agriculture and Lincoln and Massey Colleges. Technical Colleges render every assistance and the staffs give their services freely, even during vacation. The use of workshops is available in towns. At Palmerston North, twelve men spent a month in a complete course in turning. The expert in charge reported that he had never seen such progress. It was found that, in some cases, men lacked, or had lost, the ability to write a letter but a course was designed to include this. Assistance would be available towards study for University courses including provision of a room with good lighting and warmth and release for practical laboratory etc., work. In the Middle East, over eighty had sat for examinations, mainly University.

The President warmly thanked the speaker for his informative address and said the Institute was delighted to hear that the job had been well started. He hoped that anyone desirous of helping would get in touch with the Army Regional Officer. He also mentioned that, in addition to horticultural and other kindred societies, garden circles could give valuable assistance.

SOUTHLAND ACTING DISTRICT SECRETARY:—Mr. K. I. Robertson, Acting-Secretary of the Southland District Council, advised that he had been appointed Headmaster of the Lawrence District High School and that he had handed over to Mr. G. A. R. Petrie, N.D.H. (N.Z.), 122 Janet Street, Invercargill. It was resolved to extend congratulations with thanks for past services.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED.

The following resolutions were forwarded by the Canterbury District Council:—

POST WAR REHABILITATION:

“(a) That in planning any local or national scheme of post war rehabilitation or suitable avenues of employment, horticulture in all its branches, both economic and aesthetic, be given serious consideration.

(b) While recognizing the claims of economic horticulture, it is nevertheless considered that the beautification of urban and rural districts, as well as the home surroundings of the people, must play an important part in developing the mental and spiritual outlook and the character of the people.

(c) Moreover, that in the interests of national physical fitness and well being of all sections of the community, greater consideration be given to the provision, design, equipment and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities, including outdoor and indoor gymnasia.

The resolution was approved and it was directed to be referred

to the following Committee to formulate a scheme:—Messrs. M. J. Barnett (Convener), J. A. McPherson, J. G. Mackenzie, C. W. Corner and E. Hutt.

It was desired that, in the first instance, each member should set down his own ideas in connection with this matter and that this should be forwarded direct to the Convener.

STUDENTS' WAR CONCESSIONS:

That the Executive Council be recommended to request the Examining Board to consider the cases of all students, where courses have been interrupted by war service, with a view to (a) granting passes, and (b) reducing the service required before sitting subsequent examinations.

In all such cases, the local examining Committee should be asked to report on the work and capabilities of the student prior to entering upon war service.

The resolution was approved for reference to the Executive Council with a recommendation that it be passed on to the Examining Board.

EDUCATION IN HORTICULTURE:

Mr. T. Waugh handed in a paper entitled "Education in Horticulture," written by Mr. A. H. Shrubshall, Christchurch, and read at an early Annual Conference of the New Zealand Horticultural Trades Association and which was said to have given the idea of founding the Institute. Mr. Waugh also said that the early history of the Institute is in the New Zealand Horticultural Trades Association's annual reports.

It was decided to ask the author whether we can hold the paper and publish it in the Journal.

GENERAL:

Several matters were dealt with under this heading, viz., Hawkes Bay seed and medicinal plants activities, congratulations to Seed Trade on what had been done with short staffs, membership, publicity, sources of revenue, etc.

INSTITUTE NOTES.

PERSONAL:—At the April Executive Meeting, Mr. W. K. Dallas, Director of the Horticulture Division, conveyed greetings and best wishes from Mr. E. J. Fawcett, Director-General of Agriculture, who was elected to the Executive at the Annual Meeting, vice Mr. A. H. Cockayne.

At the March Executive Meeting, a letter from Messrs. F. Cooper Limited, Wellington, advised the retirement, for health reasons, of Mr. Geo. J. W. Cooper, who also held the position of Chairman of Directors. In conveying a resolution to the Company expressing thanks for its continued assistance to horticulture, it was hoped that Mr. George Cooper's services would still be available to the Executive. It is pleasing to know that, at the April meeting, he ex-

pressed his willingness to continue his assistance thereon.

EXAMINATIONS:—The following passes have been recorded for the 1942 Annual Examination:—Junior Certificate:—H. Blumhardt (Auckland) and Miss P. Middleditch (Dunedin). Intermediate Certificate:—Miss D. Hosking (New Plymouth) and L. F. Smith (Christchurch). Diploma:—W. A. Wilson (Hastings). Mr. F. J. Melhuish, N.D.H. (N.Z.), (Palmerston North) was granted a Certificate for a pass in the further Special Subject of "Vegetable-gardening."

J. A. CAMPBELL AWARD for the best Intermediate Student for 1942 was made to Miss D. Hosking.

EDUCATIONAL:—Mr. J. A. McPherson, Director of Botanic Gardens, Christchurch, recently advised the formation, at Technical College, of a Class in Horticulture with a first night attendance of seventeen.

FRUIT RESEARCH COMMITTEE:—It was reported at the April Executive meeting that the President, Mr. Hope B. Gibbons, had been appointed as the Institute's representative on the Fruit Research Committee of the Scientific and Industrial Research Department, in place of Mr. F. S. Pope.

ADVERTISEMENTS:—It has been decided to accept a limited number of advertisements in the Journal, four issues a year, at 40/- per page and 25/- per half page each issue. Covers, excluding outside front, will be 50/- a page for each issue.

GIFTS of Mr R. A. Bradley's property of 1613 acres at Charteris Bay, Lyttelton, and of 200 acres of Mr. W. H. Guthrie's Station, "Tutira," near Napier, as Park Areas, have been noted by the Executive Council, and appreciation has been conveyed to the personal legal representatives.

District Councils:—Auckland—Mr. N. R. W. Thomas, Hon. Treasurer, called at the Institute's Office on the 19th January.

Taranaki:—Letter from President, Mr. J. C. McDowall, forwarding subscriptions and report of position.

Canterbury:—Mr. J. A. McPherson, Director of Botanic Gardens, has forwarded Syllabus of Workers' Educational Association's Lectures, including "Horticulture in Relation to Post-war Planning" delivered by himself on 31st March. A Field Day at the Botanic Gardens on the 3rd April was also reported.

VANDALISM:—The Wellington Horticultural Society recently forwarded a resolution regarding vandalism in public reserves, beaches and National Parks and education of school children towards the appreciation and protection of plant life. It was reported that this was already provided for in the Public Schools Syllabus and the Executive Council decided to request the Society to prepare a talk to be given by the teachers to the children.

INDEX

- Abel Tasman Park, The, 42.
- Accounts, Annual, 1941-42, 55.
- Allan, Dr. H. H. (Senecio "Alfred Atkinson," 62.
- Alpine and Rock Garden Society, New Zealand, 71.
- Annual Meeting, 1943, Institute, 74.
- Annual Meetings, 1943, Programme, 45.
- Arbor Day, 1942, 35.
- Artificial Scree in a N.Z. Garden (Scott Thomson and Simpson), 1.
- Bodies, Kindred, 44.
- Bulbs, Acclimatization of, 73.
- Centenary of N.Z. Horticulture, 47.
- China, Horticulture in South, 13.
- Conference, vide Annual Meeting, 1943, 74.
- Convolvulus, 21.
- Correspondence School, Education Department's, 64.
- Examination Papers, 28.
- Future, Preparing for the, 27.
- Garden Plants, Naming of (R.H.S.), 67.
- Horticultural Training and Examinations, 17.
- Horticulture, Centenary of N.Z., 47.
- Horticulture in South China, 13.
- Institute Notes, 14, 33, 53, 77.
- Kindred Bodies, 44.
- Kiwi in Palace, 69.
- Loder Cup, 25.
- Loder Cup Competition, 1942, 68.
- Naming of Garden Plants (R.H.S.), 67.
- New Zealand Alpine and Rock Garden Society, 71.
- Nicoll, G. S., (Sunny Nelson), 57.
- Palace, Kiwi in, 69.
- Plant Recording: Strawberry, Melody, 74.
- Pouakai Ranges, The, 37.
- Preparing for the Future, 27.
- Report of Examining Board, 1941-42, 51.
- Report of Executive Council, 1941-42, 48.
- Rubber Trees, 47.
- Scree, Artificial, in a N.Z. Garden (Scott Thomson and Simpson), 1.
- Senecio "Alfred Atkinson," (Allan), 62.
- Spring Show, Unique, 15.
- Strawberry, Melody, Recording, 74.
- Sunny Nelson, (Nicoll), 57.
- Tasman Park, The Abel, 42.
- Thomson, J. Scott and Simpson G. (Artificial Scree in N.Z. Garden), 1.
- Thomson, W. M., 46.
- Trees, Rubber, 47.
- Tuition in Diploma Subjects, 64.
- Unique Spring Show, 15.

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.

Examination Papers

Sets of examination papers used at the last six examinations in horticulture are obtainable on application for sixpence per examination set.

Address all correspondence to:

Dominion Secretary,
Royal N.Z. Institute of Horticulture,
Box 1237,
Wellington.

