In Syria, Virginia Stock grows wild and along with a speci : of Erodium and a mustard-like plant makes beautiful patches of yellow and mauve on a colourless soil.

In some parts Syria's soil is red, making magnificent colour schemes with the flowers and grass. Asphodels became even thicker in Jordan. These I believe are the "lilies of the field" of the Bible. I frequently found the garden variety of Ranunculus. Among the ruins of Jerash, bright red anemones made a splash of colour and in the dry stoney ground below sea level near the Dead Sea, I discovered purple Salvia, a mauve creeping rock-rose and a single mauve stock.

The violets grow wild in Spain, Turkey and Greece but were not in flower when I was there. Unfortunately having no book on Mediterranean plants I was not able to identify many interesting specimens which I found.

Ruth Coyle

The Editor had thought that there would be no account of the Ohakune trip, so this one from Mrs. Fisher comes as a pleasant surprise. Our thanks for it.

ANNIVERSARY WEEK-END TRIP TO OHAKUNE

27-30th JAN, 1962

On Friday 27th January 1962 at 3.30 p.m. about three dozen enthusiastic members of the Auckland Botanical Society left for Ohakune. The trip down was uneventful. We had our tea in a very beautiful park at Te Awamutu and after admiring the fernery and flower beds, set off for the middle of the island.

On Saturday we went to the Blythe Hut, the bus taking us up the new road as far as the bridge. Here we started off up the beautiful Ohakune track. Pseudowintera colorata with its rich reddish hues, Beech, Libocedrus bidwillii, some with Aptcropteris malingii growing up their trunks, Enargia parviflora together with Dawsonia superba and other mosses fringed the edge of the track. As we got higher, Leptopteris superba became evident. Finally Nothofagus cliffordioides dominated the scene, each with its quota of "filmies" adorning it.

Unfortunately the weather was not very kind to us for it came on to rain just before we reached the hut. While we having lunch, it really set in and by the time we got back to the bus we were pretty wet. We saw bushes of Hebe tetragona

in full flower - I have never seen it so prolific before. The plant association at this level is typical of the Volcanic Plateau. Dracophyllum recurvum, Celmisia spectabilis, C. incana, C. glandulosa, Euphrasia, Olearia nummularifolia, Cassinia fulvida, Senecio bidwillii, Phyllocladus alpinus, Dacrydium biforme, D. laxifolium, D. bidwillii and D. colensoi. Needless to say there are many other plants which I have not mentioned, but these are the ones I remember.

On the way down to the bus, as it was raining so hard, we thought it might be quicker if we came down the new road. It was a depressing sight to see the destruction wrought by the bulldozers.

Sunday was a strenuous day for some of us and those who wished to go sight-seeing went to the Chateau and its environs. Under the leadership of Mr. Farnell we "tackled" Mt.Hauhungatahi, which is about 5,000 ft. high on the west of Mt. Ruapehu. We started off from Erua and soon found ourselves amongst Libocedrus bidwillii, Podocarpus hallii, P. ferrugineus, Dacrydium cupressinum, D. colensoi and Weinmannia racemosa. As we ascended, the smaller trees and shrubs of the undergrowth included Phyllocladus alpinus, Elaeocarpus hookerianus, Aristotelia fruticosa, Melicytus lanceolatus, to mention a few.

We lunched by a little stream where some of the party decided to remain. The rest of us "pushed on" to the top, squelching through the bog with only snow sticks to guide us. It was a long drag over this drab terrain and a very rigid, twiggy Dracophyllum played havoc with our shins. Its sole companion seemed to be the Hypolaena lateriflora, except around the little tarns where we saw Drosera spp.

With the memory of the wonderful fell field on Mt. Holdsworth still fresh in my mind I must confess I was disappointed with Mt. Hauhungatahi. The rocky summit supports an abundance of Celmisias, Euphrasias, Helichrysum bellidioides, Pentachondra pumila, Podocarpus nivalis to name a few. I looked for Leucogenes leontopodium but did not see any.

As the mist was fast descending we made a hasty retreat. Back through the Hypolaena bog and the twiggy Dracophyllum. By this time most of us had bleeding shins and it was quite a relief to get down into the bush again, where the going was much easier. The bus was waiting for us at Erua with the Chateau party aboard. They were thrilled with their day and all seemed to thoroughly enjoy it. I understand they went to Mahuia Rapids, Taranaki Falls and explored round the many beautiful regions in that area.

Monday saw us homeward bound. A stop was made at National Park where most of us "dived" into the bush behind the Railway Station. Another stop at Raurimu where we saw the last of the lovely Cordyline indivisas. Lunch at Taumarunui - a stop for light refreshments at Ohaupo - and then home.

M. Fisher

Last year it was decided that the Society should attempt a survey of a small area on the Waitakeres, and after considerable discussion a spot in the vicinity of Fairy Falls on the eastern side of the ranges was decided upon. Different members undertook to study different groups of plants. The area chosen was figured and discussed in the December number of the 1961 News Letter. The Society as a whole has visited the area in spring and in autumn recording species and noting those flowering and fruiting. During our autumn trip, members not forming part of any team, spent their time counting seedlings in four small quadrats, and the identification of the seedlings provoked a good deal of interest. In addition to the official visits, some of the members made private visits of the area. It might be mentioned in this connection that two members visiting the spur in June found the only thing in flower was a solitary tree of Senecio kirkii.

The mosses have been a particularly troublesome group, but the moss team collected with enthusiasm and Mrs. Barr their leader now reports good progress. She has made microscope slides of all species collected and tells me her work is now nearing completion.

It would be a good thing if members would try to get their herbarium material ready by the end of the session, also the editor would be grateful if the leaders of the different groups would send in their notes and records as soon as convenient. If we could get results sorted out by the end of the year, then we might consider some sort of publication next year.

Some members have asked me about herbarium specimens and the labelling thereof. Instructions about the mounting of herbarium material is given in "Finding Plant Names". But perhaps a few reminders would not come amiss.

Remember to have your specimen as complete as possible, with flowers, fruit etc. Do not glue your specimens on to the paper, fix them with strips of gummed paper but do not use Selotape as it is liable to split and discolour.

Remember that the correct labelling of your specimen is most important. You must give the full name, the date of collection, the locality and any additional remarks you think of interest, such as "on dark damp banks" or "Epiphytic on tree-ferns stems etc". Remember to give the name of the collector and the name of the person identifying the specimen.

Naming is very important. You must always not only give the scientific name of the species, but also the name of the botanist or botanists who named it. These names and authorities will be found in all scientific floras. Some members may think this unnecessarily tedious but it is absolutely essential for correct listing. A little thought will show why. It is the names after the species that enable us to pinpoint it. The name of the botanist first describing and naming the plant must always be written first after it. Often as a result of further study it is found

necessary to change the plant from one genus to another. When this is done the name of the botanist making the change is put after the name of the botanist first describing it and the describer's name is enclosed in brackets. Very often the names following the specific name are abbreviated. For instance, Col. stands for Colenso, R.Br. stands for Robert Brown, so that if you were, for instance, citing Doodia media on a correctly drawn up species list, you would cite as Doodia media R. Br. This means that by so citing it, it is always possible for anyone to obtain the original description and, (assuming it is accessible) make a study of the type.

If there should happen to be a father and son describing species, the son's name is always followed by f. meaning filius, the Latin for a son. Hence Forst.f. means Forster the son, Hook.f. means Hooker the son.

But it may be said, we are not really intending to look up original descriptions, the scientific names are bad enough why make them worse by the addition of unpronounceable foreign names like Schkuhr or Schlechter? One can sympathise, but a little thought can show that the omission of the authority not only cuts one off from the description of the species and its history but can in addition lead to the most hopeless confusion.

Let us take an example. There is a New Zealand rata known as Metrosideros diffusa. What is it? Well unless you give me the authorities as well as the specific name it would be quite impossible to tell. If you were to consult Cheeseman's Flora, you would say, "Oh, that's the beautiful red one we call the Carmine Rata." If, on the other hand, you consulted Allan's Flora you would say, "Oh, that's the little white climbing rata, the one that has the flowers on the old wood." So what? If you again study Allan (Supplementary notes, p.1021) you will find that the proper name of the little white rata mentioned is M. diffusa (Forst.f.) Smith. Now if you consult Cheeseman you will find that the name of the Carmine Rata is listed as M. diffusa Smith.

Just for good measure, we have the now discarded name M. diffusa A.Cunn, which was once applied to the large white rata (M. albiflora Sol. ex. Gaertn.). So if you simply put down on a species list that is intended as a serious scientific record, M. diffusa, how is anyone to know which M. diffusa you have in mind? Are you recording the Carmine Rata or the small white rata? If you are using a very old book for your names you may even have in mind the large white rata. You can see now what hopeless confusion could follow from a failure to specify authorities. The International Rules of Botanical Nomenclature state that a specific name is not completely cited, unless the authority is given along with it. Now you can understand why.

As regards herbarium material it is most important that there should always be a specimen to vouch for a record. These

specimens are called voucher specimens. Supposing you claim to have discovered Hypolepis tenuifolia (Forst.f.) Bernh. in a certain area. If the specimen is checked, it will either turn out to be what you say it is, in which case it will have vouched for you, or it will turn out to be a different species, in which case an incorrect record can be corrected. Or again your specimen might turn out to be a hybrid.

Members will now appreciate the importance of fully cited herbarium specimens in a project such as the Society has undertaken.

News of Members.

We are deeply sorry to hear of the illness of Mrs. L.H. Millener. We offer her all our sympathy and very good wishes for a speedy recovery.

The Secretary has asked me to remind members of the Silver Jubilee buffet dinner to be held at the Museum on October 27th. All members should have received notices of this but if they have not would they please notify the Secretary.
