

"NATIVE FLORA OF THE WAITAKERE RANGE AUCKLAND," by A.D.Mead.
Second Edition, 1972.

Reviewed by Miss M. Crookes.

Both as a waterworks engineer and as secretary to the Centennial Park Board and later as Advisor to the Regional Authority, Mr Mead made the most of his opportunities to study the plant life of the Waitakeres, and in 1969 he published his first edition of the above work. But between 1969 and 1972 a considerable amount of water flowed under the botanical bridge, including Vol. 2 of The Flora of New Zealand by Moore and Edgar. This volume includes all the Monocotyledons barring the grasses.

Mr Mead's booklet begins with a valuable little introduction, then goes on to list the plants in groups, first Gymnosperms, then the Dicotyledons, with the Compositae grouped separately. The Monocotyledons follow with orchids and grasses in their own group. The ferns are then considered and the final group deals with fern allies. The coastal strip of the Ranges is then dealt with and plants peculiar to the area listed (excluding the sand dune plants).

Some natural hybrids are then considered. Correlations with the standard flora are then listed, with "more or less approximate" correlations concerning the present names of grasses and those given in Cheeseman (1925). Then follows a number of fern names correlated with Allan's Flora, Vol 1. (1961).

Finally we have a thorough treatment of the mosses, contributed by J.T. Linzey. This includes a general account of the habitats of various mosses followed by a comprehensive species list.

It should be mentioned that in the species lists (barring the mosses) the Maori or common name of the plants is given where possible, while the characteristic habitat is mentioned.

A valuable addition to the letterpress is the four maps on the inside covers. The first deals with reserves, both public parks and waterworks reserves, then follows a most useful map showing the different areas as Nearly Virgin, Timber extracted and Burnt, reverting. Inside the back cover we have an excellent contour map, showing the various elevations, and finally we have a rainfall map showing the mean annual rainfall in inches.

We are all greatly indebted to Mr Mead for providing us with this most useful booklet.

The above booklet is obtainable from the Secretary, priced \$1.00. In addition the following of the Society's publications are available:-