

BULLETIN
of the
WELLINGTON BOTANICAL SOCIETY

No 1

June 1941

IN EXPLANATION

The Council has long been considering publishing a journal, preferably in collaboration with the Auckland Botanical Society. The project has found favour in both centres and difficulties that have arisen are mainly due to the uncertainties of the present times. To avoid disappointing members during the delay that seems inevitable it has been decided to issue as frequently as possible, notes of the present kind. Contributions, preferably short, are invited from all members and should be sent to the Secretary for consideration by the editorial sub-committee,

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BARTON'S BUSH, TRENTHAM.

by Dr.W.R.B.Oliver

The interest of Barton's Bush, which the Society visited on June 7th lies in the fact that it is almost, if not quite, the last portion of Podocarp forest remaining on the floor of the valley of the Heretaunga or Hutt River. When Europeans first settled there in 1839 tall dense forest covered the entire flat ground of the river valley. It differed in composition from the forest of the surrounding hills, of which many areas are still in existence, with, for the most part, species of beech as the dominant trees.

Ernest Dieffenbach, naturalist to the New Zealand Company, explored the Hutt Valley in July and August, 1840. He says that the immigrants, having at that time determined to place the town of Wellington on the banks of the River