

LEVIN NEW ZEALAND NATIVE FLORA CLUB.

The formation, in Levin, of a New Zealand Native Flora Club, took place in November, 1940, credit for the suggestion being due to a local resident, Mrs. I. D. Parsons. When first mooted, the general local reaction was: an excellent idea but will it take on? The first year's operations has given the answer very much in the affirmative. The principal objectives of the club are : to create a wider interest in and a protective attitude toward the native bush and plant life generally by the public; to study and collect and cultivate in member's gardens suitable native trees and plants; to instil into the senior school children a kindlier regard for the native flora.

The club's activities commenced forthwith. An evening meeting and a day-time outing once a month drew good attendances of enthusiastic members. The Levin district is well provided with a variety of plant-associations - mixed rain-forest, alpine flora, coastal forest, bog associations, sand-dune vegetation etc. - and parts of most of these have already been visited. Great scope remains, however, local conditions and seasonal stages in the plant life affording a wide range of interest and opportunity for a long series of future excursions. A feature of the club's activities has been the formation of a junior Club among the senior pupils of the Levin Primary School. This has a membership of over 70 and on the occasions when the juniors have participated in the functions of the parent club, their keenness and enthusiasm have been very gratifying indeed. On a number of excursions members have been favoured with the visits of outside botanists, Dr. W.R.B. Oliver, Professor T.L. Lancaster and Miss L.B. Moore - and to these they are indebted for much valued information and interesting discussion.

The native garden (established some years ago) at the Levin Primary School, has been taken in hand by the Native Flora Club, the Education Department having given every facility, and by developing it and increasing the collection to a wider range of specimens from various parts of New Zealand, it is hoped to make the plot not only a place of botanical reference for the school children but of interest to all comers.

At present the club is looking forward to staging in March next, an exhibition of native flora. This will be

arranged out on the lines of a horticultural show, the classes and displays to include: collection of native trees and shrubs in pots with corresponding sample of foliage etc., collection of N.Z. polished and grained timbers; display of manufactured articles made of N.Z. woods; display of photographs of native flora; display of N.Z. ferns; native flora curiosities and freaks; collection of native mosses and fungi; miniature rock-garden; and three competitive classes for school children. This project is expected to bring the activities and objectives of the club more definitely before the general public.

G. Leslie Adkin.

RECENT BOTANICAL PAPERS.

In the September 1941 number of the Journal of the Royal N.Z. Institute of Horticulture Mr. Stirling's diploma thesis on Hedges was published in full. Members who heard him discuss this subject at a study circle will recollect many practical tips about establishing native plants for hedges and will be glad that the general account is now available.

Mr A. D. Beattie is the author of a paper on Natural Root Grafts in New Zealand Trees, in the December issue of the Transactions of the Royal Society of New Zealand. Root grafts are recorded in 30 species and a further six are listed as strongly suspected. Records of interspecific grafts are especially interesting and a number of references are made to accounts of similar phenomena in other countries. Wainui-o-mata hills and Khandallah Domain are mentioned as places where examples can be seen in situ.

The other botanical paper in this publication is by Mrs. E. A. Hodgson, on the New Zealand species of the liverwort genus Schistochila. Mrs. Hodgson acknowledges help from many collectors and would be glad to have further gatherings especially from the South Island.

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