and for their fauna, much of which is lost forever. Nevertheless, the Peninsula now is an attractive mosaic of productive grassland and native vegetation, and still supports good populations of some native birds. Changes are continuing to take place rapidly, many of them deleterious to botanical values, so that much information and effort is needed to conserve the diversity of vegetation, habitat and landscape. Hugh Wilson hoped that his survey would help towards this end. A publication on Banks Peninsula Botany is planned.

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NEW ZEALAND ALPINE PLANTS BY A.E. MARK AND NANCY M. ADAMS (REED METHUEN, 265 PP., $29.95)

Reviewed by R.O. Gardner

This is a revision of the 20x20 cm edition of 1979, the painterly and practical frame for Nancy Adams' glowing-with-health watercolours of nearly five hundred of our alpine plants. The page layout is unaltered so recent novelties, e.g. in Gentiana have had to be noted without illustration. Sharp-eyed readers of the rather small print will find name changes &c. to about fifty species and some introductory material has been rewritten.

According to ecological definition, health is the full expression of phenotype, that is, familial character and individual personality; and though most plants are depicted either flowering or fruiting the excellence of their form and colouring gives even the mistiest beginner a good chance of identifying vegetative material. By the same token it would be a treasure to have in a future edition an illustrated key to the families and life-form groups.

A bouquet of helichrysum and chionohebe to the publishers for an excellent and well-priced production.

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