CHEESEMAN'S FLORA OF THE WAITAKERES - - - A. D. Mead

In 1871 a paper entitled 'Botany of the Titirangi District', by T.F.Cheeseman, appeared in the Transactions of the New Zealand Institute. At that time the term 'Titirangi' had not acquired its present restricted sense, but was loosely applied to the whole region west of the Whau Creek to the coast, and from Muriwai to the Manukau Harbour, The paper accordingly covers about twice the area of what are commonly called the Waitakere Ranges. In this paper Cheeseman commences with a short botanical description of the area, discusses a selected number of plants, then proceeds with a list of all known species of phanerogams, ferns and lycopods. The total number of native species listed is 463, which he regards as a rich flora for so small an area, especially as a substantial proportion of the hilly parts of the area was covered in heavy virgin forest which he had not been able to explore, and when this is done he thinks the number will be considerably increased. He considers that no block of land elsewhere in New Zealand would yeild such a number of species.

Of Cheeseman's 463 species in this list, eight should be discarded as introduced, two are hybrids, and four have since been merged with others. This leaves 449 true native species. Seven of these are mentioned as new species, not previously described or named, and 182 have since suffered name changes (not counting minor differences in spelling).

There are ten species mentioned which are not in this Society's 1962 Jubilee booklet, and I list them here in the hope that some readers of this note may be stimulated to search for them, with both Cheeseman's and present name if changed. The assistance of Mr. Hatch in making this check is gratefully acknowledged.

Carex forsteri	Metrosideros albiflora
Carex raoulii	Myriophyllum pedunculatum
Gnaphalium involucratum	Potomogeton natans
Gunnera prorepens	Tupeia antarctica
Lagenophora petiolata	Zostera marina (tasmanica)

A separate list in Cheeseman's paper contains the names of 110 naturalised plants.

FAIRY FALLS - June 17 1967 - - - M. Barr

The Fairy Falls reserve in the Waitakere Ranges is an unspoiled section of our local bush at its best, and here we spent a pleasant and interesting day under the capable leadership of Miss M.Crookes. On leaving the Scenic Drive at the entrance to the track, our attention was drawn to clumps of Blechnum minus growing in close proximity to its more common relation Blechnum