Some of our members may remember Miss Pauline Buddle who was at one time secretary to our Society. Miss Buddle went overseas with U.N.R.R.A. to Greece, where she later married a Greek doctor, Dr. Haritonidis, and now lives in Athens where, under considerable difficulty, she has succeeded in starting a little Botanical Society. The group is very small "four of us only", but they refuse to be discouraged and one of their first tasks will be to publish a little handbook on the flora illustrated by coloured plates. As Mrs. Haritonidis says, "There is a great deal of preliminary work to be done and I try to encourage the others not to concentrate only on the more attractive species". She continues, "Identification is not easy. The University text book used in classification is based on the work of a German botanist which none of us can read in the original. Then again the language of science, like the language of the newspapers, is an elegant tongue called "Katharevousa" different from ancient Greek and from the every day demotic. I also make use of the University's herbarium which is not very comprehensive."-------"there are few students doing pure botany, there are hundreds sitting the pre-medical and pre-pharmaceutical courses."

She goes on to enumerate various other difficulties. All in all one feels she has tackled a pretty tough job, and I am sure that all our members will join with me in wishing her the best of luck in her courageous venture.

Now to matters horticultural!

"Our cheerful event anyhow is the establishment of a large Botanic Garden on the outskirts of the city at a place called Daphne--------- where there is an old Byzantine church possessing precious Byzantine mosaics.

A wealthy man called Alexander Diomedes, who died in 1950, left money and property to finance the undertaking, wisely insisting that the interest only from the investments was to be used. This, of course, is causing a delay of some years in its inception but a start is being made on the general outlay and planting and the erection of hot-houses.

One of the University staff was sent to Kew to study for a short period and advice is being received from the Botanic Gardens of Berlin, Monaco and Washington. It's all exciting and to be hoped the present enthusiasm is sustained.

Seeds have been received from places as separate as China and Barcelona. They were full of hope when I suggested asking you if you thought that any members of the Botanical Society would be interested in sending me correctly identified seeds of herbs and shrubs with information as to their usual habitat and the conditions under which they usually flourish. I know the seeds would be gratefully received and if they could be sent off in a strong envelope to my address they would bypass inspection by the customs.

I have nostalgic visions of seeing the whau and hoheria in flower. I had some kowhai seeds which germinated readily, but I lost the plants after two years through momentary neglect during a dry spell. I

visualise many of our northern plants growing in winter only under glass. The summers are infinitely hotter and the winters infinitely colder than ours.

January was exceptionally warm but the last fifteen days have been bitter with blizzard-like storms".

She describes how her husband, "took us yesterday for a drive out to the plains of Marathon to where there is a conical mound that is supposed to contain the bones of the slaughtered Persians. I was amazed to find at its foot abundant stands of a little green and brown iris flourishing in spite of the cold, Hermodactylis tuberosus, and in the ditches a very handsome succulent member of the Boraginaceae, Cerinthe major with clusters of yellow bell-like flowers. The ubiquitous crimson Anemone, A.coronaria was out in flower. It usually pays little attention to the weather anyway.

Spring is very beautiful. An amazing variety of species appear from nowhere and flourish for a short period until they are baked into nothingness again by the summer sun. One has to get used to these more delicate flowers that need such careful attention to get them open and unwilted into one's press.

I have transplanted many species of crocus into the garden during the flowering period and they do extremely well, also the wild cyclamen. There is a great variety among the crocuses - a most confusing genus. If any members of the Society would be interested in growing species of wild tulip, I could obtain them, though in appearance they could not compete with the cultivated varieties."

I have written to Mrs. Haritonidis and am hoping that she will be able to give me further details about the proposed Botanical Garden in time for our next issue. In the meantime, for those members who may care to forward seeds I give her address:

Mrs. Haritonidis,
21, Taytou Street,
Psychiko,
Athens,
Greece.

Just before the News Letter went to press, on May 22nd., our old friend Mr. Jessop celebrated his ninetieth birthday. I am sure all our members will join in offering him our congratulations. I imagine few of us suspected him of such an achievement, for his "spryness" certainly belies his years. We hope he will have a very happy ninety and continue to be with us at our meetings.
