

bury and with his son "Notes on Grasses Indigenous to the Province of Canterbury" (1872). One of the Committee's activities was to import seeds of grasses, and a collection from Vienna was reared by Armstrong. Other plants were also reared, and by 1881 it was estimated that 694,972 young trees had been distributed by the Christchurch Gardens to public bodies throughout New Zealand (Herriot, 1919).

J. B. Armstrong commenced independent publication in 1880 with a valuable paper entitled "A Short Sketch of the Flora of the Province of Canterbury, with Catalogue of Species", which includes a classification of Canterbury vegetation (Table I). This paper gives an extensive list of flowering plants and ferns, but also includes 214 mosses, 106 liverworts, four Characeae, 95 lichens, 91 fungi, 107 algae as well as additions to the earlier list of naturalised plants! This list is indeed puzzling because it is hard to credit the Armstrongs with such a wide and authoritative knowledge of such groups as mosses, lichens, algae and liverworts. J. B. Armstrong wrote "The catalogue attached to this paper I have made as complete as possible. The whole of the species enumerated have been collected by my father and myself and the identification may be relied upon as correct." However, only the flowering plants and ferns have locality notes. The explanation is obtained from the following comment in one of Laing's first seaweed papers (1886). "In the Transactions of the New Zealand Institute for 1879 there appeared a list of the seaweeds of Canterbury, but as it was evidently only a compilation from Hooker, I will not refer to it further."

Both Armstrongs described new taxa, but in this the son was much more active than the father. He defined the genus *Corallospartium* and during his notable investigations on the native veronicas he first defined the species now known as *Hebe amplexicaulis*, *H. armstrongii*, *H. canterburiensis*, *H. decumbens* and *H. rakaiensis*. On his death in 1926, J. B. Armstrong "bequeathed his herbarium and library to the Botanic Gardens. For want of suitable accommodation at the time the herbarium was housed in the Canterbury Museum where it remains to this day" (Barnett, 1963).

J. B. Armstrong's wide botanical knowledge, his philosophical turn of mind, his acute powers of observation, his energy, and the felicity and quiet authority with which he writes of the plants he loved, place him amongst our foremost botanists of the nineteenth century. J. B. Armstrong's grave is at Linwood, and his father is buried in Barbadoes Street Cemetery.

Living at Governors Bay at this time was Thomas Henry Potts (1824-1888) described as "an alert vivacious peppery little man" (H. von Haast, 1948). He was a keen naturalist, particularly interested in birds, and an enthusiastic cultivator of native plants. His main claim to our notice is the series of articles which he wrote mainly for the *New Zealand Country Journal* (published by the Canterbury A. and P. Association, between 1877 and 1899) and which he made into a book entitled "Out in the Open" (1882). It includes two long articles on New Zealand ferns.

Potts employed a professional gardener, Mr William Gray, and together they wrote a paper on the cultivation of some species of native trees and shrubs (1871) which contains scattered information on plants of Banks Peninsula. Gray had earlier accompanied J. F. Armstrong on an exploration of the Upper Rangitata Valley in 1869. He had a small property in Governor's Bay at which he ran the Ohinetahi Post Office. Gray died on 30 May 1910, aged 84, and is buried in the Anglican Churchyard, Governor's Bay.

At the Castle Hill Station from 1864 to 1891 lived John Davis Gilbert Enys (1837-1912) who discovered several new species in the surrounding Craigieburn and Torlesse Ranges. Castle Hill must have welcomed many lowland botanists in