

NOTE

By D. McCLINTOCK

When on 4 August 1956 in Dublin, Prof. Webb showed me the *Hypericum* which was puzzling him, it reminded me most, and still does, of small *H. linarifolium* Vahl. At L. Mask on August 14th with my sons Andrew and Hugh, ignorant of his having been there two days earlier, I found the plant in plenty (which I hadn't expected), apparently at the extreme N end of its main area, since I could see neither the *Lycopodium* nor the *Pilularia*. Some 170 species growing within 100 yards or so of the plants (including arable, a small quarry and hedges) were entered on a mapping card. I specially looked out for other species of *Hypericum* and listed *H. androsaemum* L., *H. pulchrum* L., *H. tetrapterum* Fr. and *H. elodes* L., but not *H. humifusum* L. It is not common in Ireland, but the ground was in parts not unsuitable for it.

H. canadense L. (whose name and importance I naturally only discovered on my returning home and to my Gray) was in open associations, some in swampy mud but mostly in wet sand. No doubt this wetness was due to the plant's preference rather than to Hobson's choice in a record wet August, but in pot culture at home in Kent so far (Feb., during an admittedly wet winter) it has been happy enough without abnormal watering.

The plants when picked came up very readily by their shallow roots. For this reason I sent back nearly all I collected to be planted; the remainder are in Herb. Lousley. Three months later twelve of these had produced winter buds while eight had died - some very possibly because of damage in collection or transit. This proportion, two out of three, is supported by Fernald who describes it as "perennial by short leafy off-shoots" rather than by Britton and Brown who say it is annual. But this particular result may have been effected by the stimulus of transplanting and the point can only be settled by a visit to Co. Mayo in mid-winter and actually seeing what happens in nature in Ireland.

The pot with the twelve growing specimens was shown at the Exhibition meeting of the Society at S. Kensington on 24 Nov. 1956 together with the seeds from the plants which had not over-wintered, herbarium sheets of Irish and American material, the mapping card and brief notes. The seeds and half the growing plants have been sent to the Botanic Garden at Cambridge.