

Foreword

Some years ago Mrs Silyn Robers and Dr Thomas Jones of the Cabinet Office brought to our attention a book in use in the schools of Denmark, containing some beautiful illustrations of Flowers, which were, in the main, indigenous to both Denmark and Wales. Permission was readily received from Professor Lange, of Denmark, to use his original illustrations, and Professor Lloyd Williams was persuaded to write a text suitable for Welsh children. The book was published by us under the name "BYD Y BLODAU" and has achieved considerable popularity in Wales...

The book is now published in English, in the hope that it may afford pleasure and profit, not only to children, but to all who love the common flowers of our countryside.

MORRIS & JONES, LTD.

Flowers of the Wayside and Meadow

B James

Bryn Villa

December 1928

I'm learning the grasses with my Dacu,
who died in nineteen sixty-seven. First page,
he's keen: Sweet Vernal Grass puts the sugars
in hay. Sheep's Fescue he ticks, learning the humble

but missing the swelling fashion crescendo
through Pinks, Poppies, Spurges,
not noting – as I do now – that an Orchid's
two tubers in Welsh are called 'Adam and Eve'.

Eve sinks in water but, hey, Adam floats...
The Nettle's a 'weapon'. Horse-tail, full of silica,
is *Brwyn Nadd*, (Whetting Rushes),
used to sharpen arrows. Nineteen twenty eight, a decade
after the battle of Ypres, where Dacu was wounded.

No wonder he leaves me when humble Bracken's
rhizomes are described 'like soldiers in dugouts'. So I go on
alone to Lichen, Toadstools and the difficult Mosses.

Gwyneth Lewis