

QUARTERLY NEWS LETTERAUCKLAND BOTANICAL SOCIETY

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PACIFIC AFFAIRS

We are fortunate in having to hand two very interesting accounts of botanical observations on various islands of the Pacific. New Zealand is from many points of view, very much a part of the Pacific World, so we are always glad to welcome from members first hand accounts of any aspects of its fascinating flora.

We publish first, extracts from a letter from Mr. R. Cooper, the Museum Botanist, to two members of the Society. Mr. Cooper has been granted leave of absence from the Museum for two years in order to undertake study and research in America. He will be working at the Herbarium in the Missouri Botanical Gardens where he will carry out research on the genus Pittosporum. We take this opportunity of wishing Mr. Cooper every success in his work.

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ACROSS THE PACIFIC

"The days at Suva and Apia were well worthwhile. I hoped to collect at both places, but Mr. Parham of Suva asked me to gather the Sugiwa Palm, Veitchia joannis, for Professor Moore of the Bailey Hortorium, and my press was soon filled. I gathered a few grasses, which take little room, but spent most of the time, looking, sniffing and tasting. The first tropical plant we saw was Hibiscus, in a hedge near the wharf at Suva. It is used as a hedge plant, and is almost a weed. The variety of single and double forms and the range of colours are most attractive. Then we found an Indian Temple tree, or Frangipanni, Plumeria acutifolia, in bloom. The sausage-like branches were bare of leaves and the pink and white flowers were clustered at the tips. Next we saw coconut palms, along the Suva waterfront. Mimosa pudica, the sensitive plant, is a weed in the streets, and the children had a lovely time with it. The next 'discovery' was a Traveller's tree, Ravenala