

in our news in recent years--devastating floods caused as a result of man's abuse of nature, his destruction of fertile river flats through reckless planting, and later his destruction of innumerable forests by equally reckless lumbering. We saw gentle trickles, that beneath the sheltering trees made their way gradually to the valleys below, becoming amid the wreckage of the slaughtered forest, first rushing streams and then raging torrents, tearing down the hill sides, sweeping away precious soil down to the bare rock and carrying forth unnumbered millions of tons of precious plant food to the Gulf of Mexico, flooding the great Mississippi till it carried ruin and death for hundreds of miles along its banks. A brighter note was struck at the close of the film, when re-forestation schemes and great dams held hope of repairing the damage that ought never to have been perpetrated .

The moral of all this came home very clearly to all who have seen our own too frequently bare and barren deforested hillsides.

Finally the meeting adjourned to supper with the feeling that it was unfortunate that the film could not be more widely shown, and inspired by gratitude towards Mr. Millener whose complicated and intense efforts to procure it for us had made possible a very thought provoking evening.

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On Wednesday, July 3rd., Dr. H. H. Allan lectured to members on "Botanical Aspects of the 'Golden Hind' Trip". This trip, whose object was not primarily botanical, occupied about seven weeks. Starting at Preservation Inlet, the "Golden Hind" made its way past places whose names speak so expressively to us from the past--Coal Island, Revolver Bay, Useless Bay, then on to Dusky Sound, past Seal Island, Cascade Cove, Supper Cove, then the ship sailed through the historic Acheron Passage, pausing to nose up Wet Jacket Arm,--on into Breaksea Sound, with Sunday Cove and Vancouver Island, and finally into Doubtful Sound, with First Arm, Crooked Arm, Deep Cove and the forbidding Precipice Bay.

The trip was a thrilling though somewhat tantalising one for Dr. Allan, who was carried ruthlessly past many an intriguing spot that shouted for Botanical exploration; but the

most was made of opportunities. A new and beautiful *Celmisia* was discovered, striking in a family famous for its beauty. The matter of *Stilbocarpa lyallii* was also looked into. This striking herb (a member of the ivywort family, Araliaceae) grows on Stewart Island and adjacent Islands. Kirk, however, reported it from Coal Island, Preservation Inlet. This was remarkable since it is the only spot on the New Zealand mainland from which any member of the endemic genus *Stilbocarpa* has been reported. Landing for a brief space on Coal Island, Dr. Allan could find no trace of the plant. Since it is a stout herb up to 4 feet high, and reproduces itself by means of runners, it should be fairly easy to find. Kirk, presumably was not close enough to make a precise identification.

Dr. Allan also encountered the mysterious *Poa* of the Clinton Valley (figured in Cockayne, "The Vegetation of N.Z." Fig. 78). He found it growing on a waterfall, and was fortunate enough to discover specimens in flower. Dr. Allan showed many fine slides of landscapes where beauty blended with desolation. The forests, which frequently descended to the water's edge, were grim as their surroundings, and consisted of *Podocarpus* and *Nothofagus* and near the sea gnarled and twisted *Olearia operina*, *Senecio rotundifolia*, *Hebe elliptica*, etc. Inside the forest, progress was extremely toilsome, not only on account of contorted tree forms, but because of the frequently boggy nature of the ground. Dr. Allan showed us many beautiful slides of flowers from the Alpine meadow--*Ranunculus Lyallii*, *Celmisia holosericea* and many others. He mentioned how in one spot, where conditions were propitious, the sub-alpine meadow descended nearly to the water's edge.

The Doctor had something to say of the salt marshes that often headed the still, silent inlets. The editor was particularly intrigued by mention of an Adder's Tongue Fern (*Ophioglossum* sp.) which was regularly submerged at high tide! To the editor it all seemed a bit "agin nature"! Dr. Allan, however states that the water in such places is often of very low salinity.

The meeting concluded with a hearty vote of thanks to the lecturer. Members went home feeling much privileged to have had even so brief a glimpse of a botanical region so rarely

visited and so very difficult of access.

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As we have lost so many excursions during the winter months on account of bad weather, the Committee decided to hold a Social Evening instead of a picnic during July.

The staff of the Botany Department--Prof. Chapman, Mr. L. H. Millener, Miss De Berg, Miss Lush and Miss Menzies, were at great pains to provide the guests with botanical entertainment of variety and interest. Sections were seen cut to a thousandth of an inch in thickness, and the technique of staining and mounting was demonstrated, while elsewhere there were beautiful exhibitions of slides of plant forms both living and dead. Collections of herbarium material including specimens of seaweeds and hybrids were also on view. The Department's excellent drawing apparatus was shown in operation, while the members were also given insight into the processes of photo-micrography.

During the evening two fine colour films were shown, one of Kew Gardens, and one which strikingly illustrated the birth and death of a flower.

The Senior Laboratory was turned into a temporary art gallery in which were shown many beautiful photographs and paintings of native plants. There were also on exhibition many rare and beautiful illustrated books lent by courtesy of the Museum and College Libraries. The "Art Gallery" was organised by Miss Crookes, with assistance from Miss Betty Molesworth.

The gas was kind to us, so it was possible to serve supper in the Physiology Lab. The meeting was voted a complete success, the only complaint made by the guests being that the evening was not long enough to do justice to all the botanical fare provided!

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On Saturday, August 7th., an excursion was held to Captain Keatley's garden, St. Luke's Road, Mt. Albert. In spite of ominous portents a few optimists turned up at 2 p.m., to be rewarded by an afternoon spent sheltering in the glass house! We can only hope for kinder weather next time we visit this fascinating garden!