

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!

CEDARS - and CEDARS!

Mr. and Mrs. Holt, of Titirangi, announce that their Kawaka (Librocedrus doniana) is now bearing a profusion of both male and female flowers, and they invite any members of the Society who happen to be in the vicinity to come and examine it for themselves. (The address is Godley Road, Titirangi, 'phone 18U Avondale Exchange). As kawaka flowers are somewhat inconspicuous, and on occasion out of reach, members will appreciate this opportunity of investigating flowers, perhaps only known previously from illustrations. Actually the flowers, when seen, are not very exciting--the female flowers never develop striking "berries" as do some of our taxads and podocarps, nor into handsome cones as do those of the kauri. The kawaka cone when mature is only $\frac{1}{2}$ " long.

New Zealand possesses two cedars, both endemic. The kawaka does not grow south of Hawke's Bay and Taranaki, and the pahautea, Bidwill's cedar (Librocedrus bidwillii) which is found in both islands, but does not venture farther north than Mt. Te Aroha.

Are our native cedars "real cedars"? Actually they belong to the genus Librocedrus not the genus Cedrus, though like the latter Librocedrus is included in that great family of the Conifers, Pinaceae. The genus Cedrus includes the Atlantic Cedar (C. atlanticus) of which a very beautiful specimen is to be seen in Albert Park, the cedar of Lebanon (C. libani) and the lovely deodar or Himalayan cedar (C. deodora). Our genus Librocedrus has no old world members, though its nine species are curiously widely spread, two being in New Zealand, two in China, while Japan, California, New Caledonia and New Guinea each possess one. New Zealand cedars may be distinguished readily from the true cedars by the fact that the leaves of Librocedrus are opposite and those of Cedrus spirally arranged.

A good deal of confusion has arisen over the use of the name cedar. Why, for instance, do we call our kohekoke (Dysoxylum spectabile) a cedar when it is not even a cone bearer, but belongs to the mahogany family? Actually the mahogany family (Meliaceae) includes among its genera the genus Cedrela some of whose species are called cedars, for example the Austra-

lian Red Cedar,--also found elsewhere in the tropics (Cedrela toona), the West Indian Cedar (C. odorata)-- used in the manufacture of cigar boxes. Bordering Albert Park, along Bowen Avenue, Auckland possesses a lovely avenue of the Chinese Tree of Paradise, of the Persea family (Ailanthus glandulosa)^{until} recently named Cedrela Sinensis and often termed cedar. I hope none of our members miss these trees in the beauty of their fruiting season, when festooned with great rosy clusters of winged keys!

It may be added in conclusion, for the comfort of members, that the term "cedar" is also applied to species not included under Cedrus, Librocedrus or Cedrela--for example, the Japanese Cedar (Cryptomeria japonica) and a number of others. Enough has been said, however, to show that the term "cedar" must be approached with a certain amount of caution, if its use is not to give rise to misunderstanding.

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THE AUCKLAND COUNCIL OF HORTICULTURE

Botany and horticulture are allied, and there is inevitably some working partnership between them. All horticulturists must have some sympathy with botany, at least on its practical side, and all Botanists must sympathise with horticulture, if only to the extent of gazing admiringly from one's sitting room window at one's neighbour toiling in the garden!

All members of our Society will then rejoice to learn that they may now regard themselves as members of that new and important body, the Auckland Horticultural Council. This newly formed association may be said to mark a definite step forward in the progress of Auckland horticulture. The Auckland Horticultural Council, to which are affiliated all Auckland clubs or societies interested in horticulture, has for its aims the encouragement, promotion and co-ordination of all horticultural interests, the beautification of streets, reserves and gardens both public and private, the giving of lectures and the providing of instruction, advice, etc. on matters of horticultural interest, and later on the publication of