

QUARTERLY NEWS LETTER

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A U C K L A N D      B O T A N I C A L      S O C I E T Y

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December is with us once again and it is pleasant to know that our Society can look back on a very successful year.

As regards scenery preservation there is room for congratulation. Le Roy's Bush has been saved from the threat of destruction and this closest-of-all-areas of native bush to the city is not only secured but has every possibility of becoming part of an even larger Reserve. The trees that our Society planted are doing well, and Le Roy's is now one of the areas undertaken to be studied by one member for our Survey for a Local Flora.

Rangitoto has been the subject of attention by the Domain Board, and a most useful and thorough survey of dangerous exotics has been made by the borough engineer. The fight against the enemy in Rangitoto is, however, far from finishing and there is still work for the Society in that quarter.

The position as regards Kirk's Bush is also satisfactory. Mr. Butterworth, to whom the Bush owes so much, is making a very generous donation towards its upkeep, while Messrs. Robb Bros., who own the adjoining bush which constitutes a shelter belt for the Reserve, have agreed to maintain it in its present state.

Our major work as a Society this session has been arranging for the preparation of a Local Flora. Details of the results of our August meeting have already been published, while a further meeting was held in November for discussion and for identification. Members are going ahead with their appointed tasks and Mrs. Wood, who has undertaken the survey of an area in Huia, has already passed the 200 mark, with specimens all duly pressed, numbered and labelled. Two additional members have added themselves to the collecting teams.

Taking things all in all we have every reason to congratulate ourselves on a successful year.

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### LECTURES AND EXCURSIONS

On Wednesday, September 7th, Mr. V.W. Lindauer lectured to us most entertainingly on the subject of seaweeds. He began with a brief history of Algological research in New Zealand, concluding with an indication of the great amount of work still remaining to be done and the obstacles thereto. The lecturer gave us interesting systematic information and also spent time wandering down a number of fascinating byeways and discussing the different practical uses to which various seaweeds have been put both inside and outside N.Z. Incidentally, he has kindly promised the editor a few really satisfying seaweed recipes for a future number of the News Letter. On the subject of nomenclature, Mr. Lindauer showed that while new species were constantly being discovered, in some cases further knowledge brought simplification. For instance, all N.Z. forms of Ecklonia are now held to constitute one species - Ecklonia radiata. The meeting closed with a hearty vote of thanks to the lecturer.

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The Society enjoyed an unexpected treat on Wednesday September 21st, when Prof. S. Cooke, University of Minnesota, a visiting metallurgist, spoke to us on plants and flowers of the Rocky Mountains. This lecture consisted of a commentary on his own beautiful slides photographed in the field in natural colours. An enthusiast for wild flowers, Prof. Cooke took long excursions through many of the splendid National Parks with which the State of Montana is so richly endowed. We saw something of the glories of both spring and summer on both the lower slopes and alpine heights. It was a delight to see so many "garden" flowers rioting wild in mountain and meadow - blue larkspurs, pink phlox, splendid buttercups, daisies in yellow and white, violets, fritillaries and Sisyrinchium - to mention only a few. Not only were we intrigued by flowers and flowering shrubs, but we also saw species of mountain cacti and other succulents, which are characteristic of the more arid mountain regions.

At the conclusion of the lecture a hearty vote of thanks