

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