

and the introduced evening primrose (Oenothera biennis) and its immediate relatives. I am still seeking for the true Burmese buttercup, and if any member can give me information about that elusive plant, I shall be most grateful.

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Many members would like to follow in Miss Nancy Bamford's footsteps in her delightful trip to the Sounds. In the meantime it is pleasant to see some of the highlights of the journey through her eyes.

"A thousand miles seems a long way to go to see buttercups and daisies but, in December last, these were a satisfying reward for a visit to the Hollyford Valley. Around the entrance to the Homer Tunnel they were growing in profusion and all in full flower - Ranunculus lyallii, a lovely sign of spring among those very grim mountains with their cold icefields still reaching low down into the Valley. All around were bushes of Gaultheria rupestris with their waxy lily-of-the-valley clusters of flower and Hebe monticola again white but very showy with masses of flower. Amongst these were the daisies, the large flowered Celmisias.

The walk down to Marion Camp, 8 miles, was filled with interest and surprises. The road drops quickly, 2,200 feet, and the change from lower alpine fields to beech forest and the rich forest undergrowth can be followed. 7 species of daisies (Celmisias and Senecios) were in flower, some yellow but most white and showing a great variety of leaf form. The tall spikes of Spaniard grass (Aciphylla) were in flower and there were clumps of Anisotome and Angelica - not spectacular individually but showy on the cliffs and standing out amongst the rocks.

Lower down in swampy areas, there were patches of golden-yellow Chrysobactron hookeri and several species of buttercups, tall and low growing. One especially attractive species had very bright papery petals with brown backs. Everywhere were varieties of coprosma, Cassinia, Senecio and Hebe, especially salicifolia with large spikes of flower. There were ourisias, mountain totara, Wahlenbergia and Dimelia.

The beds of Pratia, also in full flower, seemed too lovely to walk on.

All these same flowers were later seen at about the same heights along the Milford Track but they were not flowering so well as in the Upper Hollyford Valley. The Track climbs higher,

to 3,400 feet and on the top of the McKinnon Pass there were many varieties of alpine plants - dwarf Celmisias, mat Raoulias, particularly the blue-grey soft mat of R. bryoides and R. grandiflora with its large flowers buried in the stiff silvery leaves. There were sundews, Helichrysum and dwarf species of Coprosma and Hebe.

To return to the Hollyford, the richness and variety of the forest cannot be explained by the rainfall alone (dreadful as it is!) and the list of plants to be found would be very long - Nothofagus, rimu, weinmannia, miro, rata, which by January was a blaze of red, and Olearias, (Olearia ilicifolia and O. arborescens were the most conspicuous.) Surprisingly for such a cold, wet place there were masses of Fuchsia exortica.

The track from the Lower Hollyford to Lake Howden was a beautiful climb through bush (about 3 hours). There were some lovely local associations - patches of the delicate Libertia pulchella, growing in the moss nearby a bank with red Nertera berries and higher on the tree trunks Enargea with its odd shaped white fruits and twisted petioles. Clumps of Prince of Wales feather added to the beauty of the forest floor and the occasional specimens of Cordyline indivisa gave variety to the foliage.

There were many interesting and beautiful plants to be found - Dawsonia superba, Maori "strawberries" (Cyttaria) fallen from the beech trees, masses of lovely ground orchids, mostly Pterostylis banksii, and, finally although really the most wonderful, the green wealth of mosses and fern which make our N.Z. rain forests varied and beautiful."

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Miss Vivien Dellow, M.A., is at present engaged on an exacting and farflung research on the seaweeds of the Hauraki Gulf, trying to record species, their locations, frequency etc., Recently she made a successful expedition to the Little Barrier, and has been kind enough to send us an account of seaweeds on that strange sandless coastline.

SEAWEED VEGETATION OF LITTLE BARRIER ISLAND

During the latter half of last October the writer and Miss Alison Lush of the Dominion Museum were fortunate enough to spend a fortnight on Hauturu, the far-famed bird and plant