

the bark of Mida is very rough and file-like. Despite this expert tuition most of us were still baffled in a few cases.

The Mida leaf varies greatly in shape, a fact which led Cunningham in 1838 to establish three species, M. salicifolia, M. eucalyptoides and M. myrtifolia. Hooker, 1853, united all three in Santalum cunninghamii. Cheeseman follows this specific name but puts the plant in the genus Fusanus. Later workers have returned it to Mida and under the rules of priority the specific name used is one of the original ones - salicifolia.

Two other plants for which this area is famed are Dacrydium kirkii and D. colensoi. The former is remarkably abundant in all stages, from broad-leaved juveniles to large adult trees which seem always to retain some juvenile foliage on the lower branches. D. colensoi of which we found only two or three trees, all mature, bore no juvenile leaves and had a much denser head than D. kirkii.

The area includes regenerating Podocarp forest; swamp forest with good specimens of Eugenia maire, Laurelia novae-zelandiae (Pukatea) and Carpodetus serratus (Putuputuweta); and, on the higher ground, mature Kauri forest. Although relatively small in extent the Kauri ridge demonstrates most of the plants usually associated with the King of the northern forests. Shrubby forms are Corokia buddleoides, Senecio kirkii (here on the ground, although frequently an epiphyte on the Kauri itself), Leucopogon fasciculatus (Mingimingi), Suttonia salicina (Toro), while on the ground grow Astelia trinervia (Kauri grass), the miniature treefern, Blechnum fraseri, Schizaea dichotoma (Kauri fern), Schoenus tendo and Lycopodium densum.

Also found on this ridge, growing at an unusually low altitude, are small specimens of Xerba brexioides, one of our most beautiful flowering trees.

A senior member of the society, Mr. Stacey, recalled that this area was part of a property belonging to his grandfather and Mr. Stacey himself knew the district over seventy years ago when much of the now young forest was pastureland."

* * *

We were fortunate during October in having with us Mr. J. Carnahan, a member who now holds a lectureship at Massey College. On Wednesday Oct. 3rd at eight o'clock he lectured to us on

They recently put on a most instructive and charming little show of Australian flowers. They hope that in future they may be able to hold further small shows, illustrating certain specialised plant groups. Congratulations to two very enthusiastic people.

The Society, however, is not merely interested in cut specimens, but under the enthusiastic leadership of Mr. Jollie, is assisting in making a living garden at the section donated by Mr. Butterworth opposite Kirk's Bush. Mr. Jollie is our representative on the Kirk's Bush Scenic Board, and he has already lead two working bees on the property where members have come armed with spades and mattocks, and specimens have been donated. It might be mentioned that Mr. Jollie is always open to receive donations from members of native plants of interest for the section. His address is F. Jollie, 197 Astley Ave., New Lynn.

* * *

REVIEW. NEW ZEALAND FERNS. DOBBIE AND CROOKES.

(Whitcomb & Tombs 40/-).

- Contributed by Nancy Bamford.

Botanists and all interested in New Zealand plants will welcome the new 1951 edition of Dobbie's New Zealand Ferns, edited by Miss Crookes. This book, promised so long by the publishers, is now available and is very well commended in a foreword by Dr. H.H. Allan.

Members of the Botanical Society have come to rely upon Miss Crookes for all information concerning ferns and are very delighted that all her research and study will now be officially recognised in this new edition, combined with the work of H.B. Dobbie.

Those who have studied ferns for years know that information on their classification and characteristics has been expanding greatly, and that the editing of an early work and bringing it up to date is a colossal task, involving accurate scientific knowledge and study in the field.

Those who are just starting to study ferns can now sally forth into the bush to share Miss Crookes' and Mr. Dobbie's enthusiasm, knowing that in this book they have the foundations for future identification and field work.

* * *