

where the flowering season should be in full swing.

The following two articles in the News Letter may be of interest to members:

Egmont - by Dr. and Mrs. L.H. Millener -
Vol. 3, No. 3 - June 1946.

(This serves as an excellent general introduction to the vegetation in the vicinity of Dawson's Falls).

Some Ferns of Mt. Egmont - by Marguerite W. Crookes.

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ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL DISPLAY

Members will have noticed that the Auckland Botanical Society received a Certificate of Merit at the Auckland A. & P. Show for its exhibition of native plants.

Our thanks to Mrs. Sheates and Mr. Farnell who provided specimens and to Mrs. John Barr and Mrs. Prickett who arranged them so attractively.

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Our hearty thanks to Mr. Given for this most interesting and well illustrated account of the Pokeno Excursion:

ON INSIGHT INTO FOREST FARMING - VISIT TO MR. R. HOHNECK'S BUSH

The Botanical Society's sojourn at Mr. Hohneck's Forest Farm at Pokeno was enjoyable, refreshing, and an interesting light was thrown upon the economic disposal of the bush.

Here, we witnessed an honest and, in fact, most successful endeavour to utilise native timber and at the same time conserve the forest.

In explaining his method of forest farming, Mr. Hohneck pointed out how older trees, serviceable to his purpose, yet an encumbrance to the development of the younger growth were removed with the minimum of disturbance. He did not replant of his own accord but relied upon nature to replace the trees which he removed. There were, however, occasions when a little

encouragement seemed advisable; in such cases, fruiting was encouraged by incising the roots. Totaras had been successfully treated in this way. Moreover, there were instances when this same treatment was employed for the purpose of warding off the invasion of destructive insects; the beech Nothofagus truncata seemed particularly susceptible and was dealt with in this manner.

Mr. Hohneck had tapped Kauris for gum, but in doing so, ensured that the forest giants were not mortally wounded.

Where practicable a system of contour terracing was also carried out; this served the dual purpose of preventing erosion and accumulating water for irrigation purposes.

Before lunch, a brief excursion into the environment of the mill produced several interesting plants. Mida salicifolia was in flower, as was also Alseuosmia quercifolia, delightfully fragrant. Of the orchids, Corybas oblonga was in flower, while Acianthus fornicatus sinclairii bore seed.

Then after lunch, a trek along the road winding through Mr. Hohneck's domain took us through typical bush consisting of Rimu, Tanekaha, Lancewood, Rewarewa, Hangehange, Kohekohe, Mahoe, various Coprosmas, and in one sector, a fine stand of Kauri. Most evident, however, was the abundance of profusely flowering Olearia rani. But then interesting features were cropping up all the way along the track. A number of orchids in flower were collected apart from those already mentioned; one member found a rich blue Thelymitra sp. and several dainty specimens of Caladenia carnea were noticed. Pterostylis was well represented, P. banksii, P. graminea and P. trullifolia all being located. Of the epiphytes, Earina mucronata and Bulbophyllum pygmaeum were seen. Then when the unpretentious Microtis uniflora was noticed, the day had been a good one for orchids.

Of the trees in flower, Pittosporum tenuifolium with its blossoms of dark purple was evident while Corokia buddleoides with its yellow starlike flowers could not be passed over. The mistletoe, Loranthus micranthus with its small green insignificant flowers was seen on Totara. Then on the higher levels, Quintinia serrata displayed racemes of buds.

A colourful note was added to the scene by the occasional splashes of reddish bronze in Astelia trinervia and the fern Blechnum procerum. Talking of ferns, the kidney fern

Cardiomanes reniforme was seen to particularly good advantage at the highest point.

The return to the mill was made by a different route which afforded magnificent views of the Coromandel Peninsula, Te Aroha Mountain, then across to the West, Pirongia. On both sides of the track, lanky saplings looked down upon their erst-while nursery of Manuka.

Back at the mill the inevitable cup that cheers concluded an enjoyable and profitable day.

- K.D. Given.

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WE ENTERTAIN

Following the Cheeseman Flower Show, the Committee of the Botanical Society felt it would be pleasant to express appreciation of all the willing helpers from different organisations, who by their ingenuity and enthusiasm had contributed to the success of the Show. Consequently we gave a little evening, the first part of which took the form of an exhibition by Dr. Millener of beautiful slides and films referring mainly to matters Australian.

After the pictures, supper was served in the physiology lab, where a colourful exhibition of Australian flowers and pictures dealing with Australian flora was on show. Owing to the kindness of members and their friends we had about sixty odd species of flowers, some being of striking beauty. There were waratahs, Proteas, Banksias, Acacias, Boronias and Grevilleas. In addition the Blueberry (Elaeocarpus cyanea) species of Chorizema, Hardenbergia, Kennedy, Melaleuca, Geraldine Wax plant (Chamelaucium uncinatum), Guinea flower (Hibbertia), Isopogon and other interesting plants. It is obvious that an increasing number of lovely Australian flowers are making their way into Auckland gardens.

But at our little evening we did more than entertain. Since 1952 is the Centennial year of the Auckland Museum, we felt that the Botanical Society should not let the year go by without making some small contribution to the Museum building fund. We are not a wealthy society consequently we felt that two guineas was as much as we could donate from our funds. We took the opportunity however, of providing a collection box at