

characteristic bunches of abortive growths which, when examined under the glass show the peduncle continuing to grow and divide to form those close panicles without the vestige of a flower. The healthy inflorescence is a spike only about half an inch long which can easily be overlooked unless carefully searched for.

Two farms owned by Mr. Neil Barr extensively planted with trees and shelter belts and beautifully kept, contrasted sharply with neighbouring neglected properties and Maori farms.

Having passed through the Maori settlement of Kakanui with its meeting house and "loud" signs we came to Makarau with its deep meandering river and seemingly endless tidal flats and mangroves. Less than a mile further on we stopped on the roadside to visit quite a surprising spot, Waitangi Falls. In this case Falls are plural, for there are six of them, quite pretty, but only the top one is of any size. It was unfortunate that only a few of the party could get across the second stream where in spite of severe damage by stock we found Asplenium bulbiferum var. tripinnatum and hanging over the falls was Metrosideros carminea. Adiantum diaphanum also grows but shortage of time precluded a search for it.

On returning to the bus the weather closed down and we realized how fortunate we had been all day, however, we missed the extensive views of the lower half of the Kaipara Harbour which could have been seen from hereabouts. South of Kaukapakapa on the tidal flats were several acres of Cotula coronopifolia in full bloom, appearing in such a mass as to resemble fields of buttercups.

Arriving back in town soon after 5.30 p.m. all seemed to agree that they had had a most interesting and successful day.

ART AND NATURE

On September 3rd., the usual monthly meeting took a rather different form. It was held at the Art Gallery and the Director, Mr. P.A. Tomory, was the lecturer. This time the subject was Art instead of Botany. With the aid of the epidiascope reproductions of paintings from very early times up to the present day were projected on to the screen and showed how nature had gradually been introduced into pictures by the old masters, until now the present day modern painters use nature as the subject matter of their paintings. Thanks are due to Mr. Tomory for this interesting lecture.

Ruth Coyle.