

and diverting show of coloured slides dealing with the Society's Chakune trip. These were contributed by various members, some were scientific, illustrating plant associations or botanical "finds", others purely social like the delightful study of Mr. Jessop ----- . Afterwards we repaired to the supper room to meet our friends and exchange gossip concerning the summer's trips.

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Our hearty thanks to Mrs. Wood for directing our attention to an interesting locality.

### MOSQUITO MOUNTAIN

Manganamu or Mosquito Mountain is a conical-shaped wooded hill rising rather conspicuously beside the road between Turangi and Tokaanu Its height is 1613 ft. above sea level, but as its base is near Lake Taupo (1172 ft.), the climb to the summit is something in the vicinity of 441 ft.

We had passed this hill several times and were rather intrigued by its shape and by the uniform height of its bush covering. This consisted of second growth dominated by Manukas, Leptospermum scoparium and included Kamahi (Weinmannia racemosa), Rewa rewa (Knightia excelsa), Rangiora (Brachyglottis rapanda) and Nothopanax Spp. Closer inspection disclosed a track which we followed to the summit. There we found large blocks of pumice, in fact the whole hill seemed to be composed of pumiceous breccia. From the trig we obtained an extensive view towards Turangi, and in the opposite direction, a small cutting through the trees revealed some buildings in the pretty little native village of Waihi.

To my mind the most interesting feature of this hill is its fern population and we found the ground beside the track heavily carpeted with the filmy ferns Meringium multifidum and Mecodium scabrum (more often found on trees), Kidney ferns (Cardiomanes reniforme), and Microsorium diversifolium.

Most intriguing however, are the greatly diversified forms of Asplenium to be found there. These range from Asplenium hookerianum, A. colensoi to A. bulbiferum and a strange form of A. flaccidum was also found.

The road passes beside this hill and the track is easy to find. Fern lovers visiting that area would find it a very fruitful collecting ground and for those particularly interested in the genus Asplenium it would prove very rewarding indeed.

K. Wood.

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