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On Wednesday, August 2nd, the Auckland Botanical Society together with members of the Tree Society and the Natural History Club met to hear an interesting lecture by Dr. Cooper, Museum Botanist, on H.H. Allen's Flora of New Zealand. Dr. Cooper gave a most instructive account of the difficulties involved in the preparation of a really satisfactory flora.

An immense amount of work is involved: species must be studied, records checked, often type specimens must be examined and detailed research made into the literature of the taxon concerned. If new names are to be bestowed, this may demand careful study of foreign material, particularly at the generic level, where the headquarters of a genus may be outside of New Zealand altogether. The matter of whether a species is native or introduced may also involve very careful study and scanning of old records.

Good keys are of great importance in any flora. These should be concise and logical and make use of symbols as little as possible. If new species are described it is desirable that they should be illustrated. The lecturer made detailed references to the Flora in connection with his comments and criticisms.

The meeting concluded with a hearty vote of thanks to the speaker.

The work connected with the preparation of a flora is colossal. Part 2 of the Flora of New Zealand is still to be completed. We have received from Miss Lucy Moore an article dealing with both volumes. This we publish below, with great pleasure.
