

Miss Crookes gave a most interesting talk on the ferns of the West Coast - the Karekare, Piha, Anawhata area - illustrated by slides taken by herself and Mr. Mead. She made these coastal species, adapted to sun, salt winds and spray, clinging with stunted tenacity to their crannies and crevices in the rock, more fascinating than I had thought possible. As one primarily interested in orchids, ferns had been mere ferns to me, usually identifiable as to genus, but otherwise passed by. I discovered however that there are ferns and ferns, species and subspecies, forms and subforms, fertile and sterile hybrids, and prothalli that omit fertilisation and develop directly into sporophytes. I discovered too that there are pteridologists who take their ferns more seriously than I take my orchids, one student growing several thousand prothalli in the course of an experiment. Cytology and chromosome counts came into it too. Asplenium, Blechnum, Cheilanthes, Hypolepis, Polystichum, Pteris and Pyrrosia were demonstrated and discussed. Text books and herbarium specimens were used most effectively to supplement the slides.

Mr. Warren produced a specimen of the Green Bay form of Blechnum capense from Muriwai, a new locality and I believe the furthest north this plant has been discovered. E.D.H.

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ORCHIDS ON EGMONT.

The Bot. Soc. proposing to go to Egmont next January, members may be interested in the orchids they are likely to encounter. The following have been recorded - Acianthus fornicatus sinclairii - scrub. Adenochilus gracilis - herbfield. Aporostylis bifolia - herbfield and riverbed. Bulbophyllum pygmaeum - Forest (epiphyte). Caladenia carnea minor - scrub. Chiloglottis cornuta - alpine scrub. Corybas macranthus - forest. Corybas oblongus, rivuleris and trilobus - forest. Dendrobium cunninghamii - forest (epiphyte). Marina autumnalis - forest. (epiphyte). Marina mucronata - forest (epiphyte). Gastrodia cunninghamii - river bed. Microtis unifolia - general. Orthoceras strictum - roadsides. Presophyllum colensoi - scrub and herbfield. Pterostylis banksii banksii - forest. Pterostylis banksii patens - alpine scrub. Pterostylis furcata micromega - swampy scrub. Pterostylis graminea - forest. Pterostylis humilis - alpine scrub. Pterostylis irsoniana - alpine scrub. Pterostylis montana - forest and scrub. Pterostylis venosa - forest. Sarcophilus adversus - forest (epiphyte). Spiranthes lancea - swamp. Thelymitra decora, longifolia, pachyphylla - grass and scrub. Thelymitra pulchella and venosa - swamp. E.D.H.