

Flowers in Greece. An outline of the Flora - by A.J.Huxley  
M.A. The Royal Horticultural Society, Vincent Square, London S.W.1.  
( English price 3/6 ). The flora of Greece includes 6000 species -  
probably more. The booklet deals with the main vegetation groups  
and includes sections on the more important families such as  
lily, iris, arum, orchid and amaryllis. There is information  
about the wild cyclamens and we are told something about the  
trees and shrubs. Like New Zealand, Greece suffers from erosion  
and has learnt only too much about the depredations of goats.  
Geography, soil and climate are discussed, and brief accounts  
are given of seashore, alpine and parasitic plants, and those  
that adorn stony places and rocky walls. The illustrations are  
a feature of this admirable little work and no less than 23  
species are shown in full colour. The colour reproduction is  
very fine indeed. The writing is popular without being superficial,  
and the amount of information that is crammed into fortyfour  
pages is really quite astonishing. M.C.

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LABOUR DAY WEEKEND AT TAUMARUNUI - - - F.M. Warren

At a few minutes after 4pm on Friday 23. October 1964, we  
set off on the first stage of this trip. Through illness and  
other unforeseen causes the party had been reduced to 24. Of these  
22 were in the bus, and 2 followed in the 7.40pm train. After a  
pleasant journey to Hamilton, we stopped by the lake where the  
wind was a little cool, but not cool enough to ruin our appetites.  
The next stop was a short one at Te Kuiti. We then carried on to  
Taumarunui, arriving about 10pm and being treated to supper in  
the hotel kitchen.

Arising on Saturday morning we found the sky heavily overcast,  
and as we left for Ohakune after breakfast a light drizzle set  
in. The climb up the road by the spiral rewarded us with views  
of heavy bush and beautiful patches of Clematis peniculata in  
flower. The Makotote viaduct was of considerable interest to  
those who had not seen it before, and several found it hard to  
believe that the trains actually crossed it.

The mountain road from Ohakune to Blyth Hut was quite  
satisfactory until we reached the first bridge. Here the approach  
is a bad one, but skilful driving by our old friend Bill Shears  
soon had the bus across, he having first taken the precaution of  
making us walk, while he drove over the bridge alone. The second  
bridge was negotiated without difficulty and we were soon up at  
the carpark near the waterfall, from which it is only a 20 minute  
walk to the hut. By this time the wind and rain had increased  
and conditions were most unpleasant. Some elected to follow the  
trek up to the hut, a few stayed in the bus and others, of which  
I was one, were content to fossick about in the bush and scrub  
near the bus. Without going far I noted Podocarpus nivalis,  
Phyllocladus alpinus, Dacrydium laxifolium, Cyathodes empetrifolia,  
Hebe odora, Hebe venustula, Dacrydium biforme, Dacrydium bidwillii,  
Gelmisia incana, Dracophyllum recurvum, Gleichenia dicarpa var  
alpina, Neopanax simplex and others I have now forgotten. A very  
good lunch provided by the hotel proprietress was eaten in the  
bus.