

Patches of white indicate the long leaved terrestrial orchid Eria. The flowers have been aptly described as resembling a coal scuttle. Sphagnum becomes more common and there are many club mosses (Lycopodium) including L. volubile, and amongst them is an interesting coarse sedge. Here also is a stemless Potentilla, which forms a little rosette centred with a bright yellow, stemless flower. At 11,500 ft the shrubby rhododendrons still persist in sheltered places and among the gay splashes of colour may be seen the creamy-white flowers of a Schima species which looks at first glance like a Camellia. The dwarf forest tends to end where the lower slopes of the granite core of the summit commence. On the sloping rock small but extremely interesting plants grow in the sunny crevices, and a small, white-flowered stiff-stemmed orchid (Coelogyne) may be common. Small grasses grow on these summit slopes and one of these, together with a very flat spreading form of Leptospermum recurvum appear to be the only vegetation, but a closer examination will yield other interesting plants. Ranunculus, unexpected so near the equator, a small, yellow-flowered, narrow petalled species, and a forget-me-not (Haviandia) grow in crevices in the rock. Near the actual summit there is a little plant which looks like an erect moss growing in shallow depressions, yet it has tiny white flowers. I was delighted to find that it was a Drapetes, otherwise found only in the mountains of South America and New Zealand to New Guinea. The white starry blooms of the Leptospermum, seen from a distance, may well have led to reports of snow on the mountain. No snow is known to have fallen there, but ice is not uncommon on shallow pools. It must be remembered that there are no real seasons here and this seems to be necessary for the majority of high mountain plants to flourish. (In addition to the genera listed through the paper, Mrs. Allen records Coprosma, Drimys, Leucopogon, Litsaea, Myrsine, Nertera, Peperomia as plants with New Zealand affinities E.D.H.)

MEETING - - - 4 August 1965

Miss Segar spoke most interestingly of her travels in India and Greece, Britain and Hawaii, Canada and the States. The slides were so many and beautiful, and the sudden changes of scene so startling, that no connected tale remains in my mind to tell.

The sacred cows of India, wandering aimlessly through the streets, systematically dodged by motor traffic - the artistic perfection of the tombs and temples, the beautiful public buildings and ornate gardens - the poverty and the filth. The continuity of an urban civilisation scarcely interrupted for almost 4,000 years -

Classical ruins defiant on the hills of Greece. Deep history in every clod and bay. The Phoenicians with their embryonic alphabet and the footsteps of St. Paul. Homer and Athens and Troy -

And suddenly to England. England with its man-made park-like beauty, its paths and streams and crowded cities, its strangely deserted moors. The familiar dome of St. Paul's

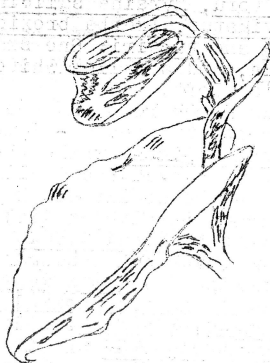
cathedral and the appalling ugliness of New Zealand House. Ancient and modern history marvellously mixed. Chaucer and Churchill and Wordsworth's cottage, Charles Darwin and the Battle of Britain.

America - the Statue of Liberty and the skyscrapers of New York. Some beautiful pink Cypripediums in the woods of Minnesota. Lake Itasca - which stirs a memory -

"George!! George! the lake is leaking. What is the name of this little creek?"

"Creek! That's no creek my girl. That's the Mississippi river." Yellowstone park with its geysers and mud pools that could, but for the cliffs, be Rotorua.

And so to Canada - mountains, ice and pines - more beauty, but of a different kind. And before you can catch your breath, you're under the coconut palms on the beach at Waikiki, and soon again gazing down on Rangitoto and the dark green hills of home. A very good show indeed. E. D. H.



Corybas carsei - from a photograph in E.W.E. Butcher - The Banks Lecture - Journ. Roy. N.Z. Inst. Horticulture 6:p59.1965.

To my knowledge the first time a photograph of this absolutely rare orchid has been published. Bill Butcher's paper is also most interesting in itself, and gives a lucid account of the restiad bog of Moanatuatua - out from Hamilton. E.D.H.