

AWHITU CENTRAL - 18 September 1965 - - - H. Cookson

Ever keen to visit new areas, a bus load of members, led by Mr. D.W. Hodgson, travelled via Waiuku to a recently formed reserve at Awhitu Central. There were fine specimens of kauri, matai, rimu, taraire, karaka, lancewood, Coprosma arborea, tanekaha, Corokia buddleioides and many others. Alseuosmia bearing scented flowers of pale or dark pink, Earina mucronata flowering on high, and underneath many seedlings and some orchids - Corybas, Pterostylis and Chiloglottis species. Most interesting was a patch of some hundreds of Mida salicifolia with varied leaf shapes and sizes and a tendency towards var. myrtifolia. Metrosideros fulgens had lately flowered.

Eighteen miles further on towards the Manukau heads we scrambled on the steep slopes of a gully and found seedlings of kauri, mairehau and Alseuosmia. A tall toro in flower, with rewarewa and Dracophyllum latifolium rearing above the scrub and tangle of kiekie. Poroporo grew on the edge of a clearing. Among the ferns we noticed Hymenophyllum demissum and dilatatum, and Blechnum lanceolatum. This steep area is doomed to be brought in to farm land, but when the bush is removed the road could subside, as has happened a short distance away.

Our thanks were given to Mr. Hodgson for a very interesting outing. H.C.

LEONARD COCKAYNE - BOTANIST E.D.H.

It so happens that the first house I ever slept in in New Zealand was Avalon, the home of Mr. & Mrs. Jas. Hunter in New Lynn. When the Hatch tribe arrived here from England in 1922 we were met at the New Lynn railway station by Mrs. Hunter, complete with pony and trap. My association with Mr. Hunter, begun thus early, continued without a break until his death some 25 years later, and from him I caught that enthusiasm for plants and botany which still clings to me with sometimes embarrassing tenacity. He also gave me from time to time, old Floras and books on New Zealand botany, which didn't impress me much then but which are now among my more valued possessions. Mr. Hunter was an accomplished teller of tales, and I would often as a child get him reminiscing on his botanical adventures with Leonard Cockayne and others of like fame.

Many years ago the founder of this Society, Dr. Lucy Cranwell-Smith (who was another friend of Mr. Hunter's) gave me a book. When I got it home I found between its pages a letter from Dr. Cockayne which I have treasured ever since. It is addressed to Miss Cranwell and dated Ngaiu, Wellington, 13 October 1932. I would like to quote a sentence from it -

"Allan told me all about his visit and how the knowledge of the two Lucys in regard to the flora of Auckland had far exceeded his own."

Cockayne's 'two Lucys' were of course Dr. Crenwell-Smith and Dr. L.B. Moore, both of whom have done much work and won much fame in the world of botany, as Cockayne in this same letter prophesied they would.

It was with some nostalgic expectation therefore that I recently attended the Cockayne Memorial Lecture at the Auckland Museum, which for this year 1965 was given by Dr. Moore. Nor was I disappointed. Miss Moore told the story of Cockayne's life and work from the double viewpoint of a personal friend and a fellow botanist. His unfolding interest in the ecological aspect of the local vegetation. His long and often arduous journeys in search of information and material. His brilliant perception of the facts of the case in a period when such things were largely shrouded in fog - a fog which Cockayne himself helped greatly to dispel. His voluminous correspondence and subsequent friendship with top flight botanists in Germany, Sweden and England. Their interest in and high opinion of his work. The honours conferred upon him. The many books, reports and papers he wrote, all of which remain classics to the present day. His financial independence, which enabled him to devote to botany the long hours which so many of us spend earning a living. His interest in and efforts toward the setting aside of suitable areas of mountain and forest as National Parks and Reserves. The Otari open air plant museum, which he founded and where he and Mrs. Cockayne are buried. His many colleagues, friends and helpers, both professional and amateur. People like H.H. Allan, T.F. Cheeseman, Diels, Engler, Goebel, M.C. Guxey (until recently a member of this Society), Sir Arthur Hill, Jas. Hunter, Donald Petrie, Phillips Turner, Geo Simpson, Skottsberg, the 'two Lucys' and many others. I was particularly pleased to hear Dr. Moore mention the sustaining labours of Mrs. Cockayne, that self-effacing lady without whom I am sure the science of ecology would have been the poorer. The lecture was most interestingly illustrated by slides - old photos of Cockayne and his colleagues, letters manuscripts etc.

Cockayne's greatest monument is the 'Vegetation of N.Z.' but of almost equal importance are his State Forest Reports and his several papers on wild hybrids and form changes in juvenile and adult plants. E.D.H.

OLIVE AND SANDALWOOD - - - M.W. Crookes

The difficulty in plant identification comes when we meet plants much alike. It is easy to distinguish an adult kauri from an adult miro, but not so easy to distinguish the adult miro from an adult matai. Certainly the miro fruit is crimson and the matai fruit black, and male miro flowers are solitary whereas in the matai both male and female flowers are in spikes. But suppose your specimen has neither flowers nor fruit? You would then note that the matai leaves were glaucous (blue-green) below, while those of the miro were green. Of course if your matai is juvenile there is no worry for the juvenile matai with its long wavy, sparsely leaved branches with a collection of light green leaves at the tip is unmistakable. One is not surprised if closely allied plants are alike but is sometimes