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Beech is sparsely represented by Nothofagus truncata, and kauri forest is the second important vegetation unit, occupying ridges in particular. The kauri itself and its characteristic bark pattern were fully illustrated, and an interesting account was given of climbing the trees for gum. Root-grafts were specially mentioned. Species accompanying kauri were shown, and the extensive kauri regeneration of this area was referred to. An all-too-brief account of the gumlands, once dominated by kauri but now covered with low scrub, included reference to ground orchids, Drosera, gumdiggers' soap (Rondeletia elliptica), and the ephemeral pygmy lycopod, Psilopsidium drummondii.

As a separate contribution Miss Hillary brought for our inspection a very fine set of Australian plants collected by one of her pupils. They were beautifully pressed and arranged, and retained much of their gay natural colours.

A showy collection of berries, brought by members who had spent the weekend in the Orongorongo Valley, included three species of Coprosma, winberry with fruit like black currants, Gaultheria antipoda both red and white, Pratia, Vertera, Dianella, and Maire Tawake with flower buds a few inches away from its big crimson fruits.

#### EXCURSION TO KHANDALLAH RESERVE. 29th January.

Although only six members made this trip, to the younger members of the Society, who were in the majority, it proved a very profitable outing.

The plants visible from the main track seemed mostly very young. Genostoma ligustrifolium, hangehange, lined the track for most of the way. Small Parsonsias, for the most part P. heterophylla though one or two P. capsularis were to be seen, were just beginning on their liana life. Dysoxylum spectabile, kohokoh, was seen in quite large numbers and its statelyness was admired by all. Hedyosmum arborum, pigeon wood, and Nothopanax arborum were less numerous than the kohokoh, and some N. edgerleyi was seen.

The only orchid noticed was Dendrobium cunninghamii, almost at the end of its flowering season. Amongst the ferns noted on the upwar track were Asplenium bulbiferum with plenty of small bulbils, species of Polypodium and kidney fern, Trichomanes reniforme. Dicksonia squarrosa was sought after by one member, but without success. At the top of the hill Coprosma foetidissima made its presence known after one tripper had toyed with it.

After a short rest, half of the party proceeded to walk over the hills to Karori, whilst the others took the more leisurely ride back in the train.

H. E. COMMON.

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Beyond Wellington 2/6.

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