

Dusky Sound was reached on February 6th, and the ship anchored in Cascade Cove. Here, at the head of the cove were Myrtus pedunculata in flower, Suttonia divaricata, Pimelea gnidia, and Ascarina lucida. While the ship travelled to Facile Harbour, a party visited the Five Finger Peninsula and Woodhen Cove, and the open coastal rocks where Anisotome lyallii was abundant along with Gentiana saxosa. At Facile Harbour a knoll burnt some years ago now carries a Dracophyllum longifolium thicket, from which probably a kamahi forest will emerge.

The ship proceeded through Acheron Passage to Wet Jacket Arm, where Epilobium matthewsii, Forsteras, Curisias, Celmisias, and Cordyline indivisa all occur near sea level.

In Breaksea Sound, Breaksea Is., Disappointment Is., Gilbert Is. and Sunday Cove were visited. Vancouver Arm is a narrower sound with many hanging valleys. One day was spent in Dagg's Sound.

In Doubtful Sound, at Snug Cove girdles of Leptocarpus and Poa oraria were well marked; above them is thickest Carmichaelia arborea, with O. operina, Coprosma propinqua, Hebe elliptica, Pimelea gnidia, backed by Griselinia littoralis and Nothopanax colensoi, then beech forest.

Stops were made at Precipice Cove, Haulashore Cove, Hall's Arm, and Deep Cove before the ship left on February 20th on the homeward journey direct to Wellington.

In general the forest was much less sombre than one had been led to expect, the dark beeches being relieved by the bronze of rimu and silver pine. Southern rata, in full flower, was dotted about, and gleamed from the rocky steep, but did not form pure associations as seen in northern Westland.

Slides illustrated the talk, and showed how attractive is this little-known part of New Zealand.

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Dr. Margaret Mayer, the new Secretary of the Society, has recently been appointed Lecturer in Botany at Victoria University College.

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Dr. I. V. Newman, President of our Society, is attending the meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science in Adelaide in the last week in August.

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VERNACULAR NAMES OF NEW ZEALAND PLANTS.

Although it is essential for plants to have botanical names, vernacular names are for many purposes useful and desirable for botanists as well as for non-botanists. Who would not rather ask for a piece of "mountain mop" for kindling than for "Dracophyllum traversii"? In any case, it is well to know what popular names there are.

In volumes 56 and 57 of the Transactions of the N.Z. Institute there is a list, compiled by Mr. Johannes C. Andersen, of the popular names which had appeared in print. It will be seen that some plants have no popular name, or perhaps only a clumsy one which has never been generally used, or a little known Maori name of difficult appearance.

There are some popular names, including those of introduced species, which seem to have hitherto escaped print and are only known locally. It would seem worthwhile for members to collect any they know and to record them from time to time in the Bulletin. Here are some to start with: - Uncinia australis, hook grass; Earina spp., bamboo orchid; Cordyline indivisa, Waimarino cabbage tree; Dracophyllum traversii, candelabra tree, mountain mop, pineapple tree; Hypericum perforatum, Mother Cameron's wood (Central Otago); Leycesteria formosa, whistlewood pagoda plant, (both in the Hutt Valley), Japanese spiderwort, twitch elder.

R. Mason.

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