

the Rangitikei Bridge.

The lack of endemics and the absence or comparative rarity of species elsewhere common suggest that the Kaimanawas are still in process of being colonized, perhaps recolonized after the destruction of the original vegetation by falls of pumice hot enough to produce the charred fragments of timber embedded in it. It may be possible to reach some conclusions as to the history of the vegetation by an examination of the Ngamatea Swamp which is a large bog lying out in the centre of the plateau and within the area of the main pumice showers which extend at any rate to the Taruarau Bridge. If borings were to show the sequence of vegetation and possibly also the sequence of pumice showers it should be possible to form a picture of the changes that have occurred and to explain the state of the vegetation at the present day.

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BOTANICAL INCIDENTS ABROAD.

After the business of the Annual General Meeting on July 19th, Miss V. Norman entertained us with an illustrated talk. With her we saw first the flamboyant Poincianas and misty blue Jacarandas, the date palms and the cotton of Egypt. Irrigation by primitive buffalo-power water wheels, along the Sweet Water Canal, the King's terraced gardens in Alexandria, and native villages and camels loaded with locally-made hay all came into the story.

In Jerusalem we saw the Old City, the Garden of Gethsemane and the Mount of Olives, where grow wild olives and lupins. In strong contrast is the modern city of New Jerusalem, with beautiful avenues shaded by citrus trees. A Jewish community farm on land reclaimed from a malaria swamp by the Sea of Galilee was impressively prosperous-looking. Tel Aviv, Nazareth, Haifa, the Dead Sea, and Jericho were all visited. Flowers of Palestine shown included the date palm, the Lily of the Fields (Anemone coronaria), the Rose of Sharon (Narcissus tazetta), wild cyclamen, Bethlehem Star (Ornithogalum), the olive, gladiolus, Opuntia ficus-indica (of which the prickly pear fruits are sold in markets) the red Tulipa montana, and Iris helenae.

From Beirut a hair-pin bend road of alarming steepness led through terraced land with corn and grapes to orchards of peaches and apples and finally at 6000' reached the Cedars of Lebanon. Of the 400 remaining trees seven are said to be over 1000 years old; the height is 60-90', the girth 30-40'. Cones are said to form only after trees are 100 years old and take two years to ripen. The seed is handpicked in efforts to maintain some measure of regeneration. Covering a rounded hilltop the grove looked most attractive even without seeing the floor carpet of mauve and yellow autumn crocuses and scarlet poppies.

At Damascus we saw the most modern bus transport, and the Street called Straight, said to be the oldest in the world.

In Britain we had glimpses of Surrey and Cardiff and the Lake District. Actual specimens of well-known flowers included mock-orange and London Pride from Dove Cottage, pink campion, dog violets, wood anemone, wood hyacinth, butterwort, the bog cotton Eriophorum, and wild thyme. Plants from Skye were dwarf willow, bladder campion, orchids, geum, Hebe speciosa from a garden hedge, germander, the English blue bell Scylla non-scripta, the Scottish harebell Campanula rotundifolia, purple saxifrage, primrose, thrift, heather and the rose-bay willow herb (Epilobium augustifolia). A quick look at Glasgow, Edinburgh and the Trossachs completed a fine set of pictures.

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