

Stunted, shrubby, wind-shorn trees of silver beech and rounded bushes of tupari are quite thickly dotted about the eastern slope, and lower down they form the dense impenetrable scrub referred to by Martin.

Towards the north end, on the flanks of a prominent rock outcrop, are found the small yellowish rosettes of *Celmisia hieracifolia* var. *oblonga*. This variety was first described from specimens collected on Mt. Stokes by J. B. Macmahon. It differs considerably from the large form of *Celmisia hieracifolia* found in the Tararuas, but seems to be matched by specimens from other parts of Nelson and Marlborough.

The beautiful endemic *Celmisia macmahoni* I did not see, but it is confined to steep rock faces inaccessible to goats. A closely related variety grows in similar habitats on some mountains of inland Marlborough. The species is distinct from all other celmisias in being densely clothed—leaves, scapes, and involucre—in a tomentum of long silky buff hairs.

*Celmisia rullandii* was formerly reported as being endemic to Mount Stokes, with a distinct variety in the Wairau Mountains. Martin has proved, by growing the two forms together, that they are identical (*Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, 65: 169), so that the endemism of Mount Stokes is less than it was formerly thought to be, and may be reduced completely as the flora of the mountains of Marlborough and Nelson becomes better known.

## Through Gollans Valley

(Field Trip, May 6; leader, Mr. A. Morris Jones)

At Days Bay heavy rain had fallen during early morning but pleasant conditions for a bush walk developed as we ascended the main spur behind the pavilion, and it was decided to do the almost trackless walk down to the regenerated area in mid Gollans Valley.

We followed the main ridge southwards and joined a spur projecting eastwards into the basin of the valley. On the spur we encountered a considerable number of uprooted beeches, havoc wrought by a southerly gale. In skirting the uprootings we got on to a wrong spur but regained the correct one lower down by crossing the heads of two shallow gullies interesting in themselves as being at the limit of the fire-destroyed forest. Our descent continued through regenerated growth, mainly of beech. Across the valley the slopes of broad-shouldered Pukeatua hill were observed, clad to the summit in young native growth similar to that through which we moved. As we neared the bottom, occasional tall remnant gorse trees were noted, their weak spindly seedlings beneath telling the tale of hopeless struggle for survival amid the beeches. (The writer recalls having to thrust through thick gorse on this spur in earlier years.) After lunch we crossed the stream and scrambled on to a somewhat open

spur, from a vantage point above which a full panorama of the valley, worth describing here, may be obtained.

Below is the southern limit of the area devastated by the big fire which swept down the valley in 1907-8. Above is evidence of two later fires which spread from the Wainui-o-mata valley and licked down-slope a little into Gollans. It is an interesting place for the study of regeneration in varying phases. Westward and down valley, the view includes a thousand or more acres of virgin forest extending from Hawtree peak and ridge to the stream below, and then upwards to crown the long south-east crest of Wainui-o-mata ridge. Southward, recumbent forested spurs succeed one another on both sides of the valley. North-west, facing us in the near distance, are steep slopes verdant with mixed old and new forest. Northward is another succession of spurs, and also, in the distance, the outline of Lowry peak. No slips are visible anywhere. All is well covered with dense regenerated native growth, hundreds of acres of it still studded with standing gaunt tree trunks, reminders of the former glory of the valley. The whole area is worth a detailed ecological study. Suffice it is to note here that the main participants in regeneration are black beech, hard beech, rewarewa, kamahi, rata, five-finger, manuka and mingimingi.

From the spur we set a straight course to the stream below, down through kamahi and its rank undergrowth of blechnum and lycopodium. Soon we were in the most delightful and sequestered part of the valley. The forest is virgin and abounds in filmy and other ferns, mosses, nikaus, climbing and perching plants. The winding stream is crystal clear, and its successions of quiet deep pools and rippling stretches blend with the enfolding greenery of the trees. In summer an occasional grey duck comes here to rear its brood in quiet. Lower down where the valley widens, lofty, finely proportioned rimu, kahikatea, matai, and pukatea occupy the flats where thickets of kiekie and supplejack challenge progress.

It was getting dark, so to avoid entanglement and delay we moved over to higher ground. On reaching where the valley opens out southward, we crossed the stream again and traversed a level stretch of mixed forest where piupiu (*Blechnum discolor*) rustled to our strides. A few minutes later the bridge at Butterfly was reached. From Butterfly, in complete darkness almost all the way, we safely accomplished the walk over the hill to Muritai.

A. M. J.

#### BULLETIN RESERVE FUND

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