



Transport was arranged by the members, and lunch and afternoon tea were had at Miss Crookes' place opposite Walker's Bush. The weather was more than kind to us, and enabled us to make the most of a varied and fruitful day.

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About Shows

The sixteenth Cheeseman Flower Show is now over and the Botanical Society once more breathes freely. This year the accent was on the practical, and use as well as beauty of New Zealand plants was emphasised. Dr. Newhook set up a fine exhibit showing the economic importance of New Zealand Flax, its Maori associations, etc. Mr. Given's bay illustrated Maori food plants, while the Auckland University College, by means of a fine series of specimens, photographs and products dealt with the Economic Uses of Seaweeds. Professor Briggs display on The Chemistry of New Zealand plants, with its intriguing test tubes and crystals, its complex chemical formulas, and its witty and instructive labels, attracted much attention. On the horticultural side, Miss Baker and Miss De Berg revealed the decorative possibilities of native plants in a series of beautifully arranged bowls and vases, while Mr. Jollie showed a collection of plants important in garden design.

The interests of the horticulturist were further cared for in a number of other displays. Miss Dingley's charmingly designed rockery showed many intriguing native plants for the Rock Garden, while Mrs. Mays admirable model of Rangitoto flanked by fine collections of living specimens showed what could develop on that unique volcanic island. Mr. Farnell exhibited a beautiful collection of shelter and specimen trees and the magnificent plant of Xeronema in full flower attracted much attention. The Auckland Natural History Club showed how sea side cottages could have lovely surroundings in their instructive Charmingly arranged collection of Plants for the Sea-side Bach, while the Forest and Bird Protection Society showed another aspect of cultivation in their intriguing display Food for the Birds. An exhibit that claimed much attention was the beautiful violin made by Mr. R. Beatson mainly out of mangeao wood. This instrument roused the enthusiasm of the distinguished concert violinist, Mr. Alan Loveday. Miss Aitken, by her display of Early Botanical Books,

emphasised our debt to the early New Zealand botanists, and incidentally showed what a fine collection of historical works the Museum possesses.

At the entrance to the Hall of Botany, Dr. Millener broke new ground by setting up (despite most formidable technical difficulties) a series of beautiful coloured films of native flora. These were skilfully illuminated from the rear and the consequent beauty and clarity of their colours evoked wide-spread admiration. At the entrance to the Hall of Birds Miss Spicer organised a display of Flower Paintings. We are not only indebted to Miss Spicer for collecting the many pictures displayed, but also for cutting a large number of mounts (always a tedious and time-devouring task) and printing many titles. The decorative side of things was all that could be desired. The work of the Titirangi Beautifying Society ensured a lovely and distinctive approach to the Show, and members of the Botanical Society, the Y.W.C.A., and other volunteers dealt admirably with the main hall. The charming coloured posters designed and executed by Mrs. Wood, added interest to the bays. In conclusion we thank Mrs. Hynes and Mrs. Wood for organising the show and for all their efficient and enthusiastic work. We would also express our appreciation to Mrs. Kealy who opened the show so charmingly for us

The Show was attended by 5237 people, a few less than last year. On the other hand, there were a greater number of school exhibits, 11 schools and many individual children contributing. We had more exhibits than last year and these as a whole reached a very high standard.

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The Botanical Society again contributed a non-competitive exhibit to the St. Mark's Daffodil At Home. Mr. Farnell gave some fine material and the colourful display was set up by Miss Dingley and aroused a good deal of interest.

Towards the end of October an important Flower Show is held in Vancouver City. As fresh flowers from many parts of the world are exhibited, a request was made for New Zealand flowers. Mr. Farnell supplied a fine collection of appropriate material, which was suitably packed and put through the customs by Mr. Jollie. The plants were then despatched by air mail, carried on ice. This is the first time that New Zealand has been represented at this great show. Our thanks to Mr. Farnell and Mr. Jollie for their trouble.

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We are much indebted to Mrs. Barr for the following interesting account of a trip to Mr. Pirongia. It certainly suggests that the mountain offers a fascinating field for botanical investigation.

"It was a lovely day in June as we approached Pirongia, the mountain dark blue against the sunny sky and cumulus clouds. The spur running up from O'Shea's Road leads to a steep knoll, plainly discernable from the lower levels on the eastern side, and this peak was our objective.

Instead of camping we were fortunate in being invited to stay at a farm house and sleep in comfortable beds. The next morning we awoke to dense fog; wearing our sou'westers and raincoats, our "opportunity" bags in our hands, we started for the peak above us.