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.

Along the fenceline of a paddock, then through a prickly gorse-grown track, we reached the bush at about 1.000 ft. The first plants that caught our eye were some very fine four-feet specimens of Schefflera digitata, looking as though they had been specially tended in a glasshouse. The bush here, which is predominately tawa, (Beilschmiedia tawa) of great size, with an undergrowth of honey-suckle, Alseuosmia macrophylla and Coprosma species, is fairly open, though trunks and rotting logs are covered with ferns and epiphytes.

The fog was still heavy making the bush impressive. Minnie Barr and myself were listing ferns; Phyl. Hynes with more catholic tastes was noting unusual associations of plants. Just after entering the bush we saw Meringium bivalve growing on the lower part of a tree trunk, and this was the only patch seen during our two-day stay. One plant of King-fern, Marattia salicina, was noticed by the track-side.

Rumohra adiantiforme was large and very plentiful, festooning the trunks; Rumohra hispida also large, though not quite so plentiful.

The tree-ferns Cyathea dealbata, Cyathea medullaris and Dicksonia squarrosa were everywhere abundant, and there was much Dawsonia superba and Tmesipteris tannensis. The Aspleniums, A. lucidum, A. falcatum, A. bulbiferum, and A. flaccidum were well represented, and four plants observed at different times which seemed to be Asplenium bulbiferum x flaccidum - the habit and growth was like A. flaccidum while the actual shape and texture of the frond approached more closely A. bulbiferum and bore bulbils.

There were masses of filmy ferns but not a wide range of species - Mecodium dilatatum, M. flabellatum, M. demissum, M. sanguinolentum, Meringium multifidum, Hymenophyllum revolutum and Polyphlebium venosum (not much) and right at the top growing in a sheltered mossy hollow Macroglena stricta!!

The usual Blechnums were there including B. minor at just under 3.000 ft. but B. patersoni was not noted. We saw two puzzling Hypolepis sp. and some fine plants of Leptopteris hymenophylloides, but at no time on either day did we see Leptopteris superba.

Microsorium novae-zealandiae was met with at above 1.500 ft. It was here, on Cheeseman's visit to Pirongia in 1877 that this fern was first found. Unlike its close relative, Microsorium diversifolium, it is not found on the low-lands and it is easily identified by its more deeply cut fronds and thick rhizome covered with shaggy brown scales.

At this height too, we first saw Dicksonia lanata, and here the tawa is replaced by Ixerba brexiodes, Quintinia serrata, and Pseudo-wintera sp.

On the last steep pull, which is nearly vertical, the tiny Libertia pulchella in seed was in every crack and crevice. The trees which at this height were nowhere over 15 ft. were hung with grey lichen, and every trunk thickly encrusted with browny-green moss. There were a few plants of Cordyline indivisa, Dracophyllum latifolium and Phormium Colensoi.

At the very top, 2.800 ft., a space had been cleared for a view, but we saw only cloud and rain and felt an icy wind. However, just before we left the clouds lifted for a minute to reveal a huge valley (a breached crater) below us, covered in forest.

A quick return trip, following the fern fronds left by one nervous member, soon brought us out in the paddock, where the rain having stopped we had a clear view over the Waikato basin.

Most of Pirongia is a State Reserve but many acres of bush on the lower slopes are owned by farmers whose cattle roam the spurs at will. It was therefore very gratifying to find that the farm at which we stayed had 150 acres of virgin bush all fenced off.

The next morning was clear and sunny, and led by our hostess' son aged 10, we set out for King-fern gully. The bush he took us through was absolutely untouched, save for an odd tree here and there having been taken out for additions to the farm-house. The trees were magnificent: on the ridges mainly Litsaea calicaris, Olea sp. and huge tawa interspersed with miro and rimu, on an open floor were large plant of Blechnum discolor. In the gullies were huge King-ferns such as we had never seen. Memorable was a giant Puketea (Lauralia novae-zealandiae) its huge bole bare save for a fine velvety moss. Peering in the gloom under the King-ferns we found Blechnum nigrum, living up to its reputation of preferring a dark and gloomy spot, but occasionally it was observed on the open floor of the forest. Here also were some nikaus (Rhopalostylis sapida) but they were not common.

Altogether it was a most interesting trip. Access to this particular part of Pirongia is not difficult and the area would repay further study. We listed 52 species (28 genera) of ferns while Cheeseman makes mention of 5 which we did not see.