

Cooper's Beach, two miles from Mangonui, is noted for its carbonaceous beds containing fossil coconuts. After diligent searching some well-preserved specimens were found in the blue clay deposits which are exposed at low tide.

A trip to Cape Reinga lighthouse and back was made one day from Mangonui (a distance of 180 miles). The inland route from Waipapakauri to the Northernmost tip of N.Z. was taken as the Ninety Mile beach route is now closed. We were most impressed with the scenery on the last few miles through to Te Paki Station. There the rolling hills were covered with patches of very low wind-swept scrub and it almost reminded us of the tussock lands of National Park or parts of Central Otago. Large white sandhills in the distance helped to create the illusion of far off snow-capped mountains. The scrub consisted mainly of Manuka and Kanuka. The latter was in flower but unfortunately the former was past its flowering period, a disappointing fact, for this region is noted for the glorious deep pink blooms of its Manuka. Visitors to the last Cheeseman Show may remember a bowl of these flowers which have been sent down from that area. The parasite Cassytha paniculata scrambled in yellowish stringy masses all over the scrub and could be seen in great abundance. A strange large leafed form of Pomadereis phylloaeflia also grows in this area.

K. Wood.

*Eupatorium is a genus of about 450 species mainly American, which belongs to the daisy family. Members who know the Old County will be familiar with the Hemp Agrimony (Eupatorium cannabinum) whose rather dull pinkish-purple heads and red stems are to be seen flourishing in moist and marshy places. The Thoroughwort is well established up North and is a familiar sight at Islington Bay, Rangitoto, but the more common type around Auckland is the charming Mist Flower (Eupatorium riparium) a much more slender plant than the Thoroughwort.

**The Cape Honey Flower (Melianthus major) belongs to the family Meliaceae. As the name suggests the flowers are particularly rich in honey (Gk. meli honey and anthos, a flower). The flowers are reddish-brown and the capsules papery. Mrs. Wood's careful drawings taken partly from Allan's Naturalised Flora should enable members readily to recognise the charming shrub. (Ed.)

