

LABOUR DAY IN THE WANGANUI DISTRICT (Contd.).

Three kinds of clematis were in blossom too; starry white in some places, real sheets of it; the pale frail green one, and the strong-smelling yellowish one, this latter loving to festoon the makomako trees.

Another gorgeous sight were the aspens in spring dress. They bore bunches of small leaves of vivid copper-beech colour, and from each bunch hung one or two green catkins, a unique colour scheme, especially when the sun shone through. As the road dropped towards the Wanganui River we lost the kowhais and the colour in the aspens became less vivid, and we felt less in need of rubber necks. One cannot help being interested in the blossoming times of the kowhais in the various parts of New Zealand, from June or July right till November.

Dulcia M. Mason.

MEMBERS' EXHIBITS.

The evening meeting in December was occupied by an informal exhibition of specimens of various kinds, of which only a few can be mentioned here.

Mrs. Newman lent a set of beautiful china plates, decorated with paintings of Australian wild flowers.

Mr. Morris Jones brought a large collection from his garden, including Rhadbothamnus with richly tinted bell flowers; brightly coloured fronds of Doodia media, a fern that grew in Hataitai before there were so many roads there; Ackama rosaefolia from the kauri forests; dainty male flowers of Pittosporum cornifolium; Teucrium parvifolium, belonging, like the puriri, to the verbena family; and two sprays of the reinga lily (Arthropodium cirrhatum) both grown from seed, but differing markedly in size.

Mr. Duncan's garden also made a large contribution, amongst which was a flowering branch of Olearia thomsoni a species from the Wanganui River district that has very seldom been collected. Flowers of Senecio Alfred Atkinson were much admired, as were also those of Wahlenbergia matthewsii, a bluebell with flowers more than an inch across. The creamy white flowers of Pittosporum kirkii were new to most of us. A plant that any gardener would be proud to grow is Senecio turneri, one of the herbaceous members of the genus somewhat like S. latifolius. The inflorescences are tall, with stiff reddish stems and flat bronzo-yellow daisy flowers.

Dyeing with lichens and other native plants was briefly described by Mrs. Samson, who was wearing, as a demonstration, a knitted cardigan dyed a dull old-gold colour with the bark of Coprosma grandifolia (C. australis).

An inflorescence of Cordyline pumilio, the dwarf cabbage tree, was exhibited by Miss Neumann, who brought the plant from Hokianga about two years ago.

Dr. Morice brought Orthoceros stricta, a late-flowering orchid, from Wallaceville. She displayed also twigs of Carmichaelia hookeri, from a plant that was collected at Paekakariki about 15 years ago and is now ten feet high in a Wadestown garden.

Flowering plants of an Ourisia recently gathered on Mt. Matthews were shown by Mr. Druce. He brought also pressed specimens of Helichrysum bellidioides which has single flower-heads Gnaphalium koriense with much-branched flower-heads, and plants intermediate between the two which he suggested must be hybrids.

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