In the primary high forest there is an exciting pitcher plant (Nepenthes). Scrambling over shrubs and saplings it is easily recognised by the large flagon - shaped pitchers, the wide open top being green, and as shiny as enamel. Inside the 'lid' are many conspicuous glands - and some of the pitchers are flushed with red. Here also a delightful little rhododendron begins, and continues upwards to just below Paka Cave. It is a small sparse shrub with very narrow, small leaves and orange-scarlet flowers an inch across. To the non-botanist some of these rhododendrons are difficult to recognise as such, but higher up are more conventional species with large clusters of deep red or scarlet flowers, similar to the better known Himalayan plants. It would seem that some Rhododendrons are in flower no matter what time of year the mountain is ascended.

Around Kamborangoh many of the gnarled windswept trees are southern conifers, for the true pine does not occur here on the mountain. These conifers change the vegetation colour from the blue-green of the tropical rain forests, to a most distinctive brownish - yellow. A common shrub which increases with altitude is Leptospermum recurvum, the trunks are gnarled and twisted with flaky bark, small leaves and white and starry flowers. Another species, a tree, Leptospermum javanicum, is found just below 8,000ft. Long-hanging mosses and liverworts cover most of this low forest, and another pitcher plant (Nepenthes villosa) is abundant. It is most colourful. The pitchers, which are hairy, vary from lettuce-green, washed with pink to bright red. The large spines around the lip are distinctive and I have never seen another species resembling it.

About 10,500ft are large patches of serpentine rock on which little grows. In the scrub Eugenia is covered with creamy white fluffy flowers in February. Vaccinium (Whortleberry) is very common, and if not covered with lovely white bell-shaped flowers, may have many new bright-red leaves which are just as spectactular. A similar looking plant, actually a relation of Gaultheria, is here also and has white waxy fruits. It is at this height that the Rhododendrons are at their best, and blood-red and scarlet patches of flowers indicate their presence. Here they are nearly all terrestial, only a few perching on trees. Common here also is the otherwise rare mistletoe Loranthus sabaensis, a parasite with lemon-yellow flowers. In the wet ground at the forest edge are many exciting small plants for the enthusiast. Some are lovely to look at, others interesting because related to mountain plants of temperate climates. Euphrasia is common here, and gentians. There are 3 kinds of raspberries growing near the paths. 2 are prickly, but one has no thorns at all and has pretty silvery leaves like those of a strawberry.

Many rare and interesting ferns abound. The miniature Haviland's tree fern (I saw none higher than 2 ft) grows by exposed pathsides. Gleichenia, Schizaea fistulosa and didotoma, Asplenium, Blechnum, Paesia, Hypolepis, Arthropteris, Grammitis, Polypodium and Cyathea are a few of the genera which are common.

Patches of white indicate the long leaved terrestial orchid Eria. The flowers have been aptly described as resembling a coal scuttle. Sphagnum becomes more common and there are many club mosses (Lycopodium) including L. volubile, and amongst them is an interesting coarse sedge. Here also is a stemless Potentilla, which forms a little rosette centred with a bright yellow, stemless flower. At 11,500 ft the shrubby rhododendrons still persist in sheltered places and among the gay splashes of colour may be seen the creamy-white flowers of a Schima species which looks at first glance like a Camellia. The dwarf forest tends to end where the lower slopes of the granite core of the summit commence. On the sloping rock small but extremely interesting plants grow in the sunny crevices, and a small, white-flowered stiff-stemmed orchid (Coelogyne) may be common. Small grasses grow on these summit slopes and one of these, together with a very flat spreading form of Leptospermum recurvum appear to be the only vegetation, but a closer examination will yield other interesting plants. Ranunculus, unexpected so near the equator, a small, yellow-flowered, narrow petalled species, and a forget-me-not (Haviandia) grow in crevices in the rock, Near the actual summit there is a little plant which looks like an erect moss growing in shallow depressions, yet it has tiny white flowers. I was delighted to find that it was a Drapetes, otherwise found only in the mountains of South America and New Zealand to New Guinea. The white starry blooms of the Leptospermum, seen from a distance, may well have led to reports of snow on the mountain. No snow is known to have fallen there, but ice is not uncommon on shallow pools. It must be remembered that there are no real seasons here and this seems to be necessary for the majority of high mountain plants to flourish. (In addition to the genera listed through the paper, Mrs. Allen records Coprosma, Drimys, Leucopogon, Litsaea, Myrsine, Nertera, Peperomia as plants with New Zealand affinities E.D.H.)

MEETING - - - 4 August 1965

Miss Segar spoke most interestingly of her travels in India and Greece, Britain and Hawaii, Canada and the States. The slides were so many and beautiful, and the sudden changes of scene so startling, that no connected tale remains in my mind to tell.

The sacred cows of India, wandering aimlessly through the streets, systematically dodged by motor traffic - the artistic perfection of the tombs and temples, the beautiful public buildings and ornate gardens - the poverty and the filth. The continuity of an urban civilisation scarcely interrupted for amost 4000 years -

Classical ruins defiant on the hills of Greece. Deep history in every clod and bay. The Phoenicians with their embryonic alphabet and the footsteps of St. Paul. Homer and Athens and Troy -

And suddenly to England. England with its man-made park-like beauty, its paths and streams and crowded cities, its strangely deserted moors. The familiar dome of St. Paul's