was caught by several specimens of the weird basket fungus. Further down in a shady spot a small patch of kidney fern was found as well as the filmy fern Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum growing on a piece of fallen tree trunk. Earina autumnalis and E.mucronata were both seen and Mr. Butler spotted a small plant of Sarcochilus adversus growing on the trunk of a Myrsine Australis but failed to find his favourite Bulbophyllum pygmaeum on this trip! Lophomyrtus obcordata, Phebalium nudum. Pittosporum tenuifolium five finger, rangiora, tawa and the ferns Adiantum cunninghamii A.hispidulum, Histiopteris incisa, and Hymenophyllum dilatatum were also present.

On our return to the coach we were taken to the Inland Road section of the forest and an area of native bush which will probably be set aside as a reserve. Here, by the roadside, we saw a specimen of the spectacular Pseudopanax ferox. There were fine specimens of Knightia excelsa and Dodonaea viscosa, large rangioras in flower and a good number of Macropiper excelsum including a few smaller ones without the usual holes eaten out of the leaves.

In addition to those mentioned above, the following plants were listed by Mrs.P.Hynes as having been seen during the day:

Carex sp.
Coriara arborea
Corybas triloba.
Dianella intermedia.
Gahnia gahniaeformis.
Hebe stricta.
Leptospermum ericoides.
Melicytus macrophyllus.
" ramiflorus
Muehlenbeckia complexa.
Neopanax arboreum.
Olearia furfuracea.
" rani.
Myrsine divaricata.
Scirpus nodosus.
Uncinia sp.

FERNS.

Blechnum capense.
" lanceolatum
Cyathea dealbata.
Paesia scaberula.
Lycopodium volubile.

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L E C T U R E S

PLANTS AND HUMAN MIGRATION

There was a good attendance of members on 7th August,1968 to hear this lecture by Mr.Uhe. The only fair way to report the lecture would be to transcribe the whole story but as this is virtually impossible it remains to quote the general theme and odd facts that appeared as we went along.

He first mentioned various migrations of people all over the world. For the early time Scandinavian and later Spanish migrants to North America the hemisphere was the same and the latitudes similar and even in the 17th and 18th centuries they had

some idea of what they were getting into- more so in the 19th century. The pacific peoples who migrated from Tahiti to Hawaii in the 9th century were lucky as their plants would grow successfully in the near similar temperatures of Hawaii, which was practically bare of forest. The movement southward from a tropical to a temperate zone was a very different story. It was found impossible to grow in New Zealand the following plants which were more or less vital to their existence; fau, breadfruit, Ficus, coconut, Pandanus, kava, pawpaw, tapioca, bananas, yams, mango and sugar cane. Taro and Kumara were the only foodstuffs which would reproduce. Mr.Uhe pointed out the dissappointments the Maoris must have had when their plants died and their seeds did not germinate; the difficulties of clothing and keeping warm in a much colder climate; the experiments with endemic plants for food, so many of them poisonous - facts they had to find out the hard way.

In the place of fau they found that the bark of whau could be used for cordage. The raupo, kiekie, Cordyline, nikau, toetoe, manuka kanuka, harakeke, oioi and wiwi could be substituted for Pandanus for thatching and the walls of buildings. For food they had birds, fish and shellfish and, after experimenting, seaweeds, tree-ferns, bracken; berries of kahikatea, alpine totara, Gaultheria, tataraheke and bush lawyer; the fruits of tawa, poroporo raupo, puwha, New Zealand spinach, kiekie flowers and cooked tutu and karaka berries. How many perished during the experiments we shall never know.

This lecture certainly pointed out the importance of plants in influencing migration. A hearty vote of thanks, carried by acclamation, was accorded Mr.Uhe.

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