strong sweet scent was traced to an Olearia odorata - a bush about 8' high just covered in blossom. There were Ourisia, Scleranthus, Cyathodes, Acaena, Leucogenes, Hebe, Helichrysum and ferns in the temperate houses. A Pachystegia insignis - the only one they had - was very sick looking but it was being well cared for in the way of drainage and sun. The botanist/gardeners were interested to hear how beautiful it is on the rock cliffs of Kaikoura. There were two plants incorrectly named so I ventured to tell the men and they removed the name tabs and checked up with their books. They didn't often have a Kiwi round who knows her native plants! However, we had quite a chat - they wanted to know first hand more of our natives. They were helpful to me regarding odd plants I found when touring Scotland. The grounds at Edinburgh Gardens are not as extensive as Kew but New Zealand plants were very well represented.

A tour of Norway by boat from Bergen to North Cape and Kirkenes and back to bergen, calling into 32 ports, was an intensely vital experience. The distance covered was 12,000 miles and half of the journey lies within the Arctic Circle. Near Bergen the low hills are covered with spruce, fir and birch trees, with bare grey rocks on the tops. Further north, arctic tundra vegetation predominated. Bog asphodel, arctic heaths, saxifrage, Aconitum and the berries blueberry, cranberry dog berry all intensified the colourful autumn scenery. Cornus, Arctostaphylus and blueberry all have red foliage; Potentilla and Sedum have yellow flowers and Alchemilla has yellow lupin type leaves, though smaller. Many of the Norwegian plants are to be found in Scotland but the colour is not so noticeable.

I was extremely fortunate in Norway in having the boat courier with a considerable knowledge of the Arctic flora and who translated her Norwegian Flora book for me when necessary. Even on bus tours (of 40 people) she would stop the bus to allow me to get out and study the plants (of course the rest of the tour people were busy with their cameras!) Considering everything, it made the visit much more interesting with a knowledge of plant life than just sight-seeing.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Mr. Alan Esler would like the following back issues of the Botanical Society Newsletter for the D.S.I.R. file. If members have spare copies of any of them perhaps they could give them to Mr. Beever, who will then pass them on to Alan.

Vol. 1. 1943 - only one issue?
June/July 1946.
September 1947.
March and December/Novenber 1957.
March 1960.

Moehau - Many of you will now know, though some may not, that the Society had an extra field trip last year to Moehau on the Coromandel Peninsula. It was a most successful weekend and I hope that a write up will appear in the next issue of the Newsletter, as will one on the Egmont trip. The latter has already been written but was too long for inclusion in this issue.

MT. AUCKLAND

A.D. Palmer.

Our long day trip in Febuary was to Mt. Auckland, which lies back from the Helensville to Wellsford road near the Glorit Farm Settlement. We were met at the farm by Mr. and Mrs. Beever and their son Ross and his wife Jessica who were to lead the trip.

The bus took us up the narrow, winding road to the airstrip from where we climbed up over parched farm paddocks to the welcome coolness of the bush. The area, known as the Atuanui State Forest, covers about 1500 acres and was set aside as a reserve in 1887. No milling has taken place since then. Kauri and taraire predominate, the latter mainly in the valleys, with the kauri dominant on the ridges.

The track is part of the New Zealand Walkway, a concept put forward by the Federated Mountain Clubs in 1967 for interconnected walking tracks running the full length of New Zealand. The scheme also proposed to include short tracks which do not necessarily connect with the main network and Mt. Auckland is one of these.

The bush was very dry and several species, particularly Geniostoma ligustrifolium and Coprosma spp., were wilting badly. We were a little late in the year for Yoania australis and saw none, although we looked in all the right sort of places just in case!

The view from the summit was quite spectacular, with the Hoteo River winding along in the foreground and the wide expanse of the Kaipara Harbour behind.

We saw several somewhat confusing small-leaved trees during the day - Pennantia corymbosa, Paratrophis microphylla the small leaved milk tree which has some leaves almost fiddle shaped, Melicytus micranthus and Melicope simplex.

We arrived back at the farmhouse very hot and sticky and eagerly drank the tea kindly prepared for us by Mrs. Beever. After thanking the Beevers we returned to Auckland via the East Coast Bays, stopping at Browns Bay for a very welcome swim.
