

is not infallible. Thus, *Coprosma rotundifolia*, *C. areolata*, *C. propinqua*, *C. rhamnoides*, and *C. crassifolia* have red, black, dark bluish, port-wine and translucent-white coloured fruits respectively. Other shrubs "mimic" the *Coprosma*-form. This is so also in the juvenile stage of the following four trees, but the adults are of ordinary tree-form, while their leaves are much larger, and, the Kowhai excepted, of a different shape.—

(1) The Lace-bark (*Hoheria angustifolia*) is a tree about thirty feet tall, with narrow, oblong leaves having long and finely-pointed teeth on their margins. The flowers are bunched together in the leaf-angles; they are white and their stamens are united into a tube surrounding the pistil.

(2) The Lowland Ribbon-wood (*Plagianthus betulinus*) being of the same family as the last species, has similar stamens, but the flowers are small, green, and inconspicuous were it not for their being in great branched bundles. The adult leaves are egg-shaped, one to three inches long, sharp-pointed and coarsely toothed.

(3) The Kaikomako (*Pennantia corymbosa*) has more or less oblong leaves, one to four inches long, which are deeply waved, lobed, or even toothed on the margin. The flowers are white, numerous and fragrant; the petals and stamens are five in number, and the fruit fleshy, berry-like and black.

(4) The Kowhai (*Sophora microphylla*) is at once distinguished by its large, golden-yellow pea-like blossoms and feather-like leaves, with twenty-five to forty pairs of leaflets.

The Mahoe (*Meliccytus ramiflorus*) is a common shrub, or small tree, with dull-green, oblong, lance-shaped leaves, two to five inches long, ending in a short point, and numerous small, greenish flowers on the actual branches. The berries are small, fleshy and violet-blue. Another most common tree or shrub is the New Zealand Fuchsia (*Fuchsia excorticata*), which is to be known by the long strips of papery bark hanging from the trunk, the soft, deciduous, egg-shaped or lance-shaped leaves, two to five inches long, which are silvery beneath, and the juicy, purple-black berries half an inch long. The flowers commence to open before the leaves appear in spring; they are at first green and purple, but finally fade to dull red. The Shrubby Fuchsia (*Fuchsia Colensoi*) is very similar but much smaller in all its parts and more twiggy. It is a shrub in the open, but may be a scrambling climber in the forest. There are two small trees that may easily be mistaken for one another, namely, the Mapau (*Rapanea Urvillei*), and the Kohukohu (*Pittosporum tenuifolium*),

incorrectly designated "Matipo" by gardeners, as in "Matipo hedge." The former can at once be recognised by its reddish twigs, tiny whitish flowers crowded together on the actual branches, and, later on, the black berries. The *Pittosporum*, on the contrary, has dark purple, almost black, flowers in the leaf-angles and woody seed-vessels, which open by three valves and expose the black seeds embedded in a sticky substance. The Tarata (*Pittosporum eugenioides*) has very glossy leaves, strongly-scented when bruised, and the flowers



[Beken, Photo.]

Cooper's Knob and Dog's Head Hill.

small, but conspicuous through their number, on branched flower stalks and yellow colour. In some places the Pepper Tree (*Drimys colorata*) is common; it is a small shrub with black stems and smooth leaves blotched with dark red or purple and very "hot" when chewed. Although generally found near the sea, the true Pepper or Kawakawa (*Macropiper excelsum*) is abundant near the summit of the Port Hills in many forest patches. The smooth branches, jointed and swollen where the leaves pass off betray its presence. The large heart-shaped pointed leaves, two to five inches long, their stalk broadly winged, are unlike those of any other forest plant. Where the forest has been destroyed that beautiful tree, the Ngaio (*Myoporum laetum*) may still linger, affording welcome shade. You cannot mistake its spreading rounded head of branches with the soft, bright green leaves, one and a half to four inches long, dotted with round pelucid glands. The flowers are in bunches of two to six. They are about half-an-inch in diameter, bell-