

who had joined our party went to refresh their eyes with seeing the Blue Lake. This is a small lake surrounded by bush and deep blue in colour, about a mile distant. I did not go but sat in the sunshine and talked to a Maori woman who I found was the wife of the owner of the wharē. She had a little girl nine years old with whom I tried to make friends, but she was too shy. I suppose they make a great deal in the season by taking visitors round, we each paid two shillings, and it would not be safe to go alone. Persons who stay at the wharē pay thirty-five shillings a week, I should be sorry to stay there, but perhaps if I were crippled with rheumatism I might be glad to do even that. When they returned from the Blue Lake we got into the buggy and drove to Rotorua, getting in about five o'clock, very tired and hungry, but having greatly enjoyed our expedition, the weather being perfect. "

Wrent's Cottage House - Rotorua - June 20th - 1899
From Mr C. F. Kridge to Mr C. H. Kridge.

"One day we walked to Ohinemutu, it is a pretty walk and by sitting down and resting several times I managed it very well. We went to the top of a rising ground from which we had a very pretty view of the Lake and the surrounding hills. Though there is no beauty in Rotorua itself there are very pretty peeps of the Lake and the surrounding country and the columns of steam here and there give a character to them. Then we went down into the pa, there is a small church which was built originally for the Maoris though the English now use it also. There are real wharē for the most part, and a finely carved wharepuni or meeting house, with baths and pools of steaming water everywhere. We saw a woman take her dinner out of one of these holes, first came a pot which she informed us was "meat, hot, hot," then a bit of potatoes. Then we came upon two little Maori children disputing themselves in a bath, jumping in and out. The place altogether is quite worth a visit."