The Entomological Section.

Officers elected 12 *February*, 1921 :—
President—The Rev. Preb. A. P. Wickham, F.E.S., East Brent Vic., Burnham.
Joint Recorders—Colonel T. Jermyn, F.E.S. (5, Highbury Road, Weston-s.-Mare), and Mr. H. H. Slater.
Treasurer—Mr. H. Doidge, The Bank, High Street, Taunton.
Secretary—Mr. H. H. Slater, Brooke House, Cannington.

THE Entomological Section has to record a great loss through the unexpected death of Mr. Alfred E. Hudd, F.E.S., F.S.A., our Recorder, on October 7th last. He had been in somewhat delicate health some years ago, and was afterwards obliged to be careful, for which reason we were often deprived of his company on our field-days ; but he was present at our last meeting, on August 28th, and as keen as ever. As he had written the Lepidoptera section for the *Victoria County History* (1903), and knew more than any of us of the distribution of insects in the county, the Section, at its inception in 1909, induced him to undertake the duty of Recorder, which involved the arrangement for publication of the various appendices of additions to the *V.C.H.* lists of insects. This work he continued to carry out with efficiency till his decease. Of late years he took an increasing interest in Diptera, in which he made a number of county records, and there are about 100 of these, as he informed us the last time we met him, yet unpublished. These we hope to have in print in due course, as a memorial to him. He was a quiet, genial gentleman, and we all much regret his loss.

The British climate has been responsible for a very indifferent season in 1920, and we have little to record in the way of Lepidoptera. The Clouded Yellow has been a fairly plentiful immigrant, and several members are breeding it. The writer had a larva of *Livornica* sent to him from Brean, which he induced to become a fine imago. Another imago of the same species was taken this year at Batcombe by Master David Coney. It has been a good year for *Bombyliformis*, and the writer noticed two of them pair *on the wing*, and then settle on a bush. Later in the same day, the same thing was

twice observed by other entomologists present. This may be a well-known habit of the insect, but none of the eight of us then present had ever seen it mentioned in print. *A. betularia* has been getting duskier for some years, and the writer has this year bred a *doubledayaria* (the black variety), hitherto unknown in Somerset, from a Shapwick larva, so this form will now, in all probability, supplant the type in Somerset, as it has already done in so many parts of England. The event of the year, however, is the occurrence of *Thera variata, Schiff*, which Mr. A. R. Hayward has turned up at Hinton St. George. What has been commonly called *T. variata* is *T. obeliscata*, Hb.; the two have been regarded as varieties of the same species, but Mr. Prout, the authority on Geometers, considers them specifically distinct. The true *variata* was taken, for the first time in England, on spruce fir in the New Forest in 1912; it also feeds on silver fir, and should be looked for elsewhere.

Colonel Jermyn, F.E.S., sends a few notes on Diptera which are of interest, and mostly records (1920) :—

STRATOMYIDAE.

Nemotelus nigrinus, Fln. Nailsea, May 29. Somerset record.

SYRPHIDAE.

Cheilosia grossa. Wembdon, March, Capt. Troup. County record. Three specimens.

Pyrophaena rosarum, F. Ashcott, Aug. 28, abundant.

Melangyria quadrimaculata, Verr. On black thorn, Weston-s.-Mare, March 21, Miss M. Jermyn.

Xanthandrus comptus, Harr. North Perrott, July 24, H. Slater. Somerset record.

Didea fasciata, Mcq. A handsome fly much resembling *S. ribesii*. Recorded in *V.C.H.*, from Minehead; no later records. Two, Weston-s.-Mare, on bramble blossom in August, and two at ivy-bloom in September. On the latter they are easily overlooked amongst the swarms of *ribesii* and wasps.

Syrphus torvus, O.S. Banwell, June 25. Somerset record.

Catabomba selenitica, Mg. A specimen bred by H. Slater from a larva found on a garden rose at Cannington. One, Weston-s.-Mare, July 5.

Helophilus lunulatus, Mg. One at Ashcott, Aug. 28. Only recorded once from Shapwick.

H. lineatus, F. Shapwick, Aug. 8. Somerset record.

In addition I have to thank Colonel Jermyn for a list of Hymenoptera met with by Mr. H. M. Hallett, F.E.S., of the Cardiff Naturalists' Society, near Weston-s.-Mare during a fortnight's visit in June 1919, of which the Colonel mentions the following as appearing to be Somerset records.

BEES.

Hyleus hyalinatus, Sm.
H. confusus, Nyl.
Sphecodes affinis, V. Hag.
Halictus villosulus, K.
H. nitidiusculus, K.
Andrena fulvago, Chr.
A. humilis, Imh.
Nomada germanica, Pz. (= *N. ferruginata*.).
Nomada bifida, Th.
Eucera longicornis, L.
Anthophora furcata, Pz.
Megachile circumcincta, Lep.
Osmia aurulenta, Pz.
O. bicolor, Schk.
Coelioxys elongata, Lep.

FOSSORES.

Sapyga 5-punctata, F.
Psammochares gibbus, Fab.
Diodontus minutus, F.
Nisson spinosus, F.
Ablepharipus (*Crabro*) *podagricus*, V. d. Lind.
Crossocerus (*Crabro*) *varius*, Lep.
Crossocerus (*Crabro*) *wesmaeli*, V. d. Lind.
Lindenius (*Crabro*) *albilabris*, F.

We welcome the inauguration of the Microscopical Section, and believe that they have, amongst others, a very useful line of work before them in the help which they can render to the other Sections by collecting and recording the minuter branches of objects belonging to those Sections' departments. In botany there are the Diatoms, Desmids, and other groups of lower Cryptogams ; in entomology, the *Thysanura* ("Spring-tails"), *Pulicidae* (Fleas), *Mallophaga* (Bird-lice, feeding on feathers), etc. All these require microscopic treatment, and all are probably best preserved as county records (or in private collections) mounted on microscopic slides.

HENRY SLATER.

The Ornithological Section.

President and Recorder—The Rev. F. L. Blathwayt, Melbury Osmund Rectory, Dorchester.
Vice-Presidents—Lt.-Colonel J. W. Gifford and Lt.-Colonel A. E. Lascelles.
Secretary and Treasurer—Mr. H. St. George Gray, Taunton Castle, Taunton.

THE 1920 Annual Meeting of the Section was held at the Somerset County Museum on May 18th, when the Rev. F. L. Blathwayt, V.P., was in the chair.

The Treasurer presented the financial statement for 1919, which showed a balance in hand on December 31st of £12 12*s.* 2*d.* A further sum of £5 was set aside for the Somerset Egg Cabinet Fund, which would make a total of £21 5*s.* 1*d.* on deposit at the bank.

It was reported that the Section at that date consisted of about sixty members. The following members had passed away since the last meeting :—Dr. J. Wiglesworth, the Rev. Preb. F. Hancock, the Rev. E. S. Marshall, Mrs. Wm. Morris, Mr. G. M. Robinson and Mr. H. Gribble Turner. Copies of an obituary notice of Dr. Wiglesworth, with portrait, had recently been sent to the members with the Bird Report for 1919.

The Chairman paid a high tribute to the memory of the late Dr. Wiglesworth, President and Recorder of the Section ; and a vote of condolence with his widow was passed.

The Rev. F. L. Blathwayt was unanimously elected President and Recorder, and Lt.-Colonel J. W. Gifford and Lt.-Colonel A. E. Lascelles, Vice-Presidents of the Section. Mr. H. St. George Gray was re-elected Secretary and Treasurer. It was decided to appoint several Assistant-Recorders of the Section, and this matter was left in the hands of the President and the Secretary and would be reported upon at the next meeting.

The general terms and contents of the Wiglesworth Bequest were recorded in the Section's last report (*Proceedings*, LXV, pp. xlviii–xlix). The books retained for the Society's library are listed in the following pages; the money obtained by the sale of those not required was, under the terms of the doctor's will, to form a fund for the purchase of ornithological works.

Mrs. Wiglesworth had sent to the annual meeting the manuscript on birds, most of which, it is believed, formed the material the doctor intended to compile as a separate work on Somerset birds. Mrs. Wiglesworth asked the advice of the Section as to the value of this manuscript, possibly for publication. The President was asked to examine the papers and to report upon the same at the next meeting.

A report was made on the general collection of birds exhibited in the Great Hall of the Castle. Twenty-two cases had recently been renovated by Mrs. Gray. Some of the birds, especially those in the Haddon Collection, had suffered owing to the dampness of the building, which could not be kept continuously heated.

Among recent acquisitions was a case of two Pallas' Sand Grouse, shot in 1888 at Steart Point, presented by the daughters of the late Rev. C. G. Anderson, of Otterhampton. At the meeting a good specimen of a Short-eared Owl, shot at Ilton, 1918, was purchased.

The Foot Collection of birds, mostly obtained in the neighbourhood of Bath, had been accepted as a donation by Whitechapel Museum. Unfortunately the catalogue of the specimens had been lost, and exact localities and dates were unknown.

H. St. George Gray.

The Botanical Section.

Secretary and Treasurer—Mr. W. D. Miller, Cheddon, Taunton.
Committee—
Dr. H. Downes, f.l.s., Dr. W. Watson, a.l.s., Miss I. M. Roper, f.l.s., Mr. H. S. Thompson, f.l.s., and Mr. N. G. Hadden.

On June 24th, 1920, twenty-one members and friends, including some students from Bishop Fox's School, Taunton, took part in a field day from Watchet to Minehead. No new records were to be expected, but the flora was profuse and interesting; among the less common plants noticed were *Silene conica*, *Trifolium suffocatum* (over), *Vicia Bithynica*,

Lathyrus Nissolia, *Linum angustifolium*, *Oenothera odorata*, *Lithospermum officinale*, *Legousia hybrida*, and *Ophrys apifera*.

A small party of members and friends, chiefly from Taunton, travelled to Uphill Station on July 7th, and walked *viâ* Uphill Ferry and the salt marsh to the end of Brean Down, visiting Purn Hill on their return. The stormy weather no doubt kept many away, but it would be difficult to find in Somerset a more interesting botanical walk. A variety of marine and limestone plants was observed, among them being *Calamintha acinos*, *Trinia glauca*, *Helianthemum polifolium*, and its beautiful hybrid with *H. chamaecistus*, *Silybum marianum*, *Asperula cynanchica*, and *Trifolium squamosum*.

In spite of a wet summer there has been energetic field work by individual members, nearly 500 notes being sent in. These are very largely the work of Dr. Watson, who has enriched the lists for County Division 6 out of all recognition, and supplied copious notes for Divisions 2, 3 and 4. About a dozen other members have recorded interesting finds. The following notes have been selected by the Committee as of general interest :—

Myosurus minimus, L. (3) Old drove below Curry Rivel Monument. *Dr. Watson.*

Draba muralis, L. (4) Combe St. Nicholas. *Dr. Watson.*

Viola hirta, L., var. *lactiflora*, Reichb. (3) Thurlbear Wood ; *Dr. Watson*, and (9) Charlton Woods, Portbury ; *Miss Roper.*

Viola silvestris, Kit., var. *punctata*, Dr. (3) Orchard Portman ; *Dr. Watson.* "In flower Feb. 8th, 1920."

Dianthus Armeria, L. (9) Cadbury Hill, Yatton ; *Miss Roper.* An amendment of Cadbury Camp, Tickenham. See *Flora Bristol*, 181.

Tilia cordata, Mill. (10) Miss Roper writes,—"Leaves on several twigs in Leigh Woods, Bristol, had taken the very unusual form of *ascidia*, being shaped like a cup or funnel. This is a form of teratology caused, according to Worsdell, by the lamina splitting into two equal parts along its whole surface, and not by the edges of an ordinary leaf bending round and fusing together."

Vicia gracilis, Lois. (2) Between Watchet and Blue Anchor ; *E. J. Hamlin*, and (4) Staple Fitzpaine ; *W. D. Miller.* Mr. Murray described this plant as rare, but records have been

accumulating of late years. Cf. Mr. White's note in *Fl. Bristol*, 245.

Vicia Bithynica, L. (3) Corfe Road, and lane therefrom towards Corfe Cottage. *General Frith.*

Rosa pimpinellifolia, L. (2) "The Watchet burnet rose is this." *Dr. Watson.* "In flower September, 1920."

Oenanthe fluviatilis, Coleman. (4) Kingsbury; *Dr. Downes.* Mr. Murray stated in 1896 that this plant was unknown on the continent. Its census number is 27. It is not found according to Watson's *Topographical Botany* north of the Trent nor in the extreme west.

Legousia hybrida, Delarbre. (2) Blue Anchor; *Miss A. G. Miller*, and (10) Oat-field north of Publow; *H. S. Thompson.* Mr. Thompson writes, "Many specimens had one or both bracts springing from half way up the ovary." He draws attention to note in *Fl. Bristol*, 413.

Gentiana campestris, L. (2) "In considerable quantity in a field between Silcombe and Broomstreet Farms, in a field on the west side of Ley Hill, and in a field near Lilycombe House, Oare. In the first named locality one or two plants with white flowers occurred. It is curious that the plant has escaped the notice of botanists hitherto, but the cool wet summer probably suited it, and it has been more plentiful than usual"; *N. G. Hadden.* This plant must be considered new to the county. The only previous record was at Bradley Knoll, which is now in Wilts.

Melittis melissophyllum, L. (2) Hawkcombe, Porlock. *N. G. Hadden.*

Euphorbia platyphyllos, L. (10) Keynsham; *Miss Roper.* John Rae published the discovery of this plant from Keynsham in 1670, the first record for Britain, but till this autumn it had not been detected here since. (See *Journ. of Botany*, Dec. 1920).

Empetrum nigrum, L. (1) Haddon Hill, near the top; *N. G. Hadden.* Records for the Crowberry on Exmoor have multiplied since the publication of the *Flora of Somerset.*

Galanthus nivalis, L. (2) About 100 plants, Dunkery Hill Gate; *N. G. Hadden.* This wild elevated station (1270 ft.) confirms the view that the Snowdrop is native in Somerset.

Ruppia spiralis, Hartm. (9) Rhine, Kingston Seymour; *Miss Roper.*

Schoenus nigricans, L. (8) Shapwick Moor; *Miss Roper* and *H. J. Gibbons.*

Among interesting casuals or aliens recorded may be mentioned :—*Erysimum perfoliatum, Dr. Watson; Lepidium perfoliatum, Miss Roper; Reseda alba, W. D. Miller; Silene Armeria, Miss Roper; Trifolium agrarium, W. D. Miller; Lathyrus hirsutus, Miss Roper; Senecio squalidus, Miss Livett; Salvia silvestris, Miss Livett; Trifolium stellatum, Miss A. G. Miller.*

It is again urgently brought to the notice of members that all finds which interest them—whether of rare plants, unusual forms, early or late flowering, etc.—should be systematically entered either in a note book or in catalogue or text book, and the results communicated to the Divisional Recorder as convenient. To all who are willing to dry plants for the Herbarium, further particulars as to size of sheet, plants required, etc., will be supplied by the Secretary.

The formation of a Microscopical Section of the Parent Society is a matter of considerable interest to botanists, who may be assured of cordial co-operation and help in the more intimate study of plants, and who offer to the new Section a sincere welcome.

A Committee Meeting was held at Taunton Castle on Dec. 16th, 1920. *Present :*—Miss Roper, Dr. Watson, Mr. H. S. Thompson, and Mr. W. D. Miller (*Sec.*). Mr. Hadden wrote regretting his inability to attend. The Secretary's extract from notes received was considered in detail. It was decided that all notes and records sent in should as far as possible be entered up,—selection to be a matter for future consideration; generally the *London Catalogue* (10th edition) to be the authority for nomenclature and admission of a plant, but no restrictions could be accepted; synonyms to be given whenever required. The project of a joint field day with the Bristol Naturalists' Society was approved, arrangements being left to Miss Roper (Hon. Sec., B.N.S.) and Mr. Miller.

The Annual General Meeting was also held at Taunton Castle on Dec. 16th, when Dr. Downes was voted to the chair.

The Secretary read the draft report. The accounts showed a balance in hand of £5 1*s.* 8*d.* It was decided to take over from the Parent Society the subscription to the *Journal of Botany* from May, 1921, and to subscribe £1 1*s.* 0*d.* to the *Journal of Botany* Deficit Fund.

The following resolution was carried unanimously, " (1) That members of the Committee should be responsible and act as Divisional Recorders for County divisions as follows :— 1 and 2, Mr. N. G. Hadden ; 3 and 6, Dr. Watson ; 4, 5 and 7, Dr. Downes ; 8, Mr. Thompson ; 9 and 10, Miss Roper. (2) That the Secretary should advise each member of the name and address of his Divisional Recorder, and send to each Recorder a list of the members in his area. (3) That each Divisional Recorder should keep in touch with his area members, collect and verify all records, and generally organize and encourage study in his area. (4) That the Secretary should enter up (without checking) in the interleaved Supplement all records vouched for by the Recorders."

The question of a joint meeting with the Microscopical Section was discussed, and arrangements were left to Dr. Downes, Dr. Watson and Mr. Miller.

Mr. St. George Gray stated that the stock of copies of Murray's *Flora of Somerset* was now reduced to about six, the price being 15*s.*

Mr. T. W. Cowan has been continuing his able work at the Herbarium, and contributions of dried plants have been received from Dr. Watson, Dr. Downes, Mr. Thompson and Miss Roper.

Dr. Watson's list of Somerset Hepatics will be published in Vol. LXVI of the *Proceedings*, for 1920.

The Section has lost six members (death, 3 ; removal from the county, 2 ; resignation, 1). Ten new members have joined. The Secretary will be glad to hear of the names of any botanists who are interested in the Section and would care to take an active part in its work.

W. D. Miller.

The Microscopical Section.

President—H. Downes, M.B., F.L.S., F.G.S., F.R.M.S., Ditton Lea, Ilminster.
Secretary and Treasurer—C. R. Killick, M.B., Tower Hill, Williton.

AT a meeting held at Taunton Castle last July it was resolved that a Microscopical Section of the Som. Arch. and Nat. Hist. Society should be formed in order to bring together for mutual assistance those who are interested in microscopical work. A committee and officers were accordingly appointed, and twenty-one members have joined the Section,—a sufficient number to secure its future success.

The Taunton Field Club kindly invited the new Section to a joint meeting on November 25th; members of the Section provided eighteen microscopes, with exhibits of slides of general interest. Tea was provided by the Club, after which, an interesting illustrated lecture was given by Mr. H. E. Cranmer of Minehead, on the subject "The Sun—our nearest Star," several of the slides having been prepared by the lecturer. It was an excellent meeting and the attendance was good.

A joint meeting with the Botanical Section is in course of being arranged.

The Secretary would be very pleased to hear from any members of the other Sections who would like the assistance of microscopical apparatus or who have any subjects for investigation, and he would be glad to know of anyone interested who would like to join the Section. The subscription, due in January of each year, is the same as that of the other Sections, viz. 2*s*. 6*d*. to members of the Parent Society and 5*s*. for non-members.

C. R. Killick.