

Entomological Section of the Som. Arch. and Nat. Hist. Soc.

In accordance with permission granted by the Committee at the General Meeting of the Society, at Wells (July 1909), as mentioned in the Annual Report (see pp. 20-22), the entomologists of the Society have proceeded to organise themselves, with a view to a revival of their branch of study in the county.

The inaugural meeting was held at the Museum, Taunton Castle, on Thursday, October 20th, 1909, when there was a representative attendance. The chairman on that occasion, Mr. W. Macmillan, of Castle Cary, was unanimously elected President of the Section for 1910, and Mr. H. Slater, of Withycombe, Carhampton, West Somerset, was chosen as Honorary Secretary.

The conditions of membership were then considered. It was obvious that any member of the parent Society could join the Section, but it was thought that an effort should also be made to secure the co-operation of every working entomologist in the county. It was, therefore, arranged that members of the parent Society should subscribe 2s. 6d. per annum to the funds of the Section, and non-members 5s.

The special purposes and objects of the Section were next discussed, and it was decided to ask the Society to co-operate with the Section in forming a reference library of standard

works on entomology. It was resolved to offer to undertake the re-arrangement of the entomological collections already in the Museum, and also to aim at the formation of a type collection of all the insects found in the county, which should be available for study and reference to all visitors to the Museum. Some of those present at once volunteered to give a few suitable books, and others undertook to present specimens of butterflies and moths. It was pointed out that it was important that other orders should also be represented, such as beetles, bees, wasps, flies, dragonflies, etc.; and the hope was expressed that ladies and gentlemen in various parts of the county, who have spare time and energy, and some love of nature, may be induced to take up the study of the less popular branches of entomology, and to send in the various insects collected in the county, with full data as to locality, etc., in order that they may be examined and classified. It was agreed that the third main purpose of the Section should be the drawing up of a new and enlarged catalogue of the insects of the county; to be, if possible, published by instalments in the annual volume of *Proceedings*.

Beyond these three main lines of indoor work, it is hoped to arrange field-days during the working portion of the year, either for the investigation of some particular entomological problem, or for the working of some promising but comparatively unknown locality. This will probably necessitate the asking of permission from some owners of estates in the county, for the working party to pay a day's visit to their woods, hills, or marshes, which permission, as many of the owners are members of the Society, will no doubt be kindly granted. Such visits will be duly announced to all members of the Section, and will probably be most interesting, instructive, and stimulating.

The Honorary Secretary will be pleased to receive the names and addresses of any ladies or gentlemen who wish to become members of the Section.