

## The Entomological Section

*President*—The Rev. Preb. A. P. WICKHAM, F.E.S., East Brent Vic., Highbridge.

*Treasurer*—Mr. H. DOIDGE, The Bank, High Street, Taunton.

*Asst.-Treasurer and Acting-Secretary*—Mr. C. J. PERRENS, 6, Park Road, Bridgwater.

*Recorder*—Mr. H. H. SLATER, Myrtle House, Mark, Highbridge.

THE Annual Meeting took place on March 5, 1929, eight members being present. The officers were all re-elected and the treasurers' accounts showed a balance of £3 18s. 9d.

Field meetings were arranged for the season ; but owing to Mr. Slater definitely resigning the secretaryship in May there have been no field meetings this year.

The Section owes its inception to Mr. Slater and all the members owe him a deep debt of gratitude both for the generous assistance he was ever ready to give, and for the many very pleasant and successful field meetings he has arranged. His resignation will be received with great regret by all the members of the Section.

In October Dr. J. V. Blachford, C.B.E., of Long Ashton, was mentioned as one who might undertake the duties of secretary. He was invited to attend an informal meeting at East Brent Vicarage and very kindly consented to act.

His appointment has to be confirmed at the annual meeting.

C. J. PERRENS.

The following records have been sent in by Mr. HENRY SLATER, Recorder of the Section :

### APTERYGOTA

*Parentomon clevedonensis*, Wom. Norton Wood, Clevedon,  
21.IX.26.

- Campodea lankesteri*, Silv. West Town, Bristol, 6.IX.26.  
*C. fragilis*, Silv. West Town, Som., 6.XI.26.  
*Hypogastrura pseudopurpurascens*, Wom. Flax Bourton,  
 12.VIII.28.  
*Hypogastrura* var. *trispina*, Wom. Leigh Woods, 21.XI.23.  
*Xenyllodes cavernicola*, Wom. Goat Church Cavern, Burring-  
 ton, 26.III.27.  
*Tullbergia affinis*, Börner. West Town, Som., 1929.  
*Isotomodes productus*, Axels. Congresbury, 24.III.29.  
*Sinella foeca*, Schtt. West Town, 13.II.26.  
*Lepidocyrtus rivularis*, Bourl. Burrington, 14.V.27.  
*Arrhopalites coecus*, Tillg. Goat Church Cavern, Aug. 1925.  
 Miss J. Barrington (var. *attenuates* only previously recorded  
 in 1925).  
*Sminthurinus aureus*, Tillg. : var. *quadrilineatus*, Tillg. West  
 Town, Som., 12.II.26. (The species only previously recorded.)  
*Sphyrotheca lubbocki*, Tillg. West Town, 25.VIII.29.  
*Dicyrtomina minuta* var. *couloni*, Nic. West Town, 10.IX.29.  
 (This variety not previously recorded.)  
*Ptenothrix atra*, L. West Town, 25.VIII.29.

## NEUROPTERA PLANIPENNIA

*Hemerobiidae*

- Osmylus chrysops*, Linn. Cannington Brook, 7.VIII.24 (H.  
 Slater).  
*Sisyra fuscata*, Fabr. Shapwick, 5.VIII.16 (the late Col. T.  
 Jermyn).  
*Boryomyia subnebulosa*, St. Crook's Peak, 14.V.14 (Rev. S. O.  
 Ridley).  
*B. nervosa*, Fabr. Crook's Peak, 12.V.14 (Rev. S. O. Ridley).  
*B. concinna*, Steph. Weston-s.-M., 19.V.16 (T.J.).  
*B. quadrifasciata*, Reuter. Weston-s.-M., 1916 (T.J.).  
*Hemerobius micans*, Olivier. Brockley Combe, 13.VII.16 (T.J.).  
*H. humuli*, L. Street, May 1923 (T.J.).  
*H. lutescens*, Fabr. Woods, Weston-s.-M. N.D. (T.J.).  
*Psectra diptera*. Only once found in Britain, at Breach Wood,  
 Langport, in 1843, by J. C. Dale.  
*Micromus paganus*, L. Weston-s.-M. 17.V.14 (T.J.).



- Chrysopa perla*, Linn. Stourton, 14.VI.14 (T.J.).  
*C. vittata*, Wesmael. Weston-s.-M., 11.VII.14 (T.J.).  
*C. flava*, Steph. Highcliff, Weston-s.-M., 29.VI.13 (T.J.).  
*C. alba*, L. Stourton Wood, 3.VI.18 (G. B. Coney).  
*C. flavifrons*, Brauer. Cannington, 29.VII.15 (H. Slater).  
*C. tenella*, Schneider. Woods, Weston-s.-M., 11.VII.14 (T.J.).  
*C. ventralis*, Curtis. Shapwick, 14.VI.14 (T.J.).  
*C. septem-punctata*, Wesmael. Weston-s.-M., 28.VI.14 (T.J.).  
*C. abbreviata*, Curtis. Berrow, 9.VII.14 (T.J.).  
*Nothochrysa capitata*, Fab. Highcliff, Weston-s.-M., 11.VI.14 (T.J.).

## HYMENOPTERA

- Cuphopterus signatus*, Panz. ♀ Crewkerne, 7.VIII.29 (Alfred H. Martineau).

## LEPIDOPTERA

There has been little reported to me this year. But Mr. C. J. Perrens took three examples of *rubiginea* at Butleigh. It is a decidedly scarce insect, which I have never taken in Somerset. I might add that Mrs. Slater and I saw five examples of *C. alba* at Devil's pit scabious flowers in the autumn, all close together. A few micros. have been recorded, viz.

- Tortrix pronubana*. Weston-s.-M. 29.IX.29, by Mr. C. Granville Clutterbuck (Ent.). This species has been added to the British list since the publication of South's 'Synonymic List'.  
*Phoxopteryx upupana*, Hb. Penselwood, 9.VI.29 (A. R. Hayward).  
*Carpocapsa grossana*, Haw. Haselbury Park, 5.IX.29 (A. R. Hayward).  
*Stigmonota flexana*, Zell: *weirana*, Doug. Penselwood, 9.VI.29 (G. B. Coney).  
*S. germanana*, Hb. Batcombe, 1929 (G.B.C.).

## ODONTATA

*Aeschna grandis* L. has not yet been identified in Somerset, though it is certain as certain can be that it occurs, seeing that it has been recorded from the five counties that directly surround us. *Cordulia aenea* L. has appeared again at the same

locality (Nailsea Ponds) at which I took it in 1921, and Mr. Womersley has got several examples there.

#### COLEOPTERA

We want some one to undertake the identification of these insects in Miss Barrington's place. He (or she) will find Mrs. Omer-Cooper, as she is now, a difficult person to succeed, and it will be a great chance to win his, or her, spurs, as a naturalist. I have only two records to make for Somerset, viz. :

*Lyctus linearis*, Goeze: Near Bristol, in rotten wood (Mr. Womersley).

*Platyrhinus resinosus*, Scop. (*latirostris*, Fab.). Clevedon, 28.v.25 (R. Beck).

#### ICHNEUMONIDÆ

These have been scarce this season, and I have only four that are new to our lists; the numbers preceding the names are those of Mr. Claude Morley's catalogue, who has kindly determined these for me.

257. *Phaeogenes maculicornis*, Ste. Shapwick.

299. *Hemichneumon elongatus*, Rtz. Shapwick.

1371. *Angitia chrysosticta*, Gr. Shapwick.

1431. *Labrorynchus nigricornis*. Somerset, 10.viii.29 (A.R.H.).

#### *Braconids*

*Apanteles vestalis*, ex larvæ of *M. aurinia*, 5.vi.23 (A.R.H.).

*A. pinicola*. Crewkerne, in cases of *Talæporia pseudobombicella*, Hb., May 1929 (A.R.H.).

*Microplitis tuberculifera*, ex larvæ of *T. miniosa*. Somewhere in Somerset, June 1928 (A.R.H.).

*Microgaster calceatus*. Somerset (A.R.H.).

#### DIPTERA

Records for 1929 by Mr. H. Audcent.

#### ITONIDIDÆ (CECIDOMYIDÆ)

*Anarete coracina*, Ztt. Sharpham, 7.ix.25. *First British Record*.



FUNGIVORIDAE (MYCETOPHILIDAE)

- Anatella setigena*, Edw. Rodney Stoke, 6.IV.29.  
*Isoneuromyia modesta*, Winn. St. Audries, 19.VIII.29.  
*I. nigricauda*, Strbl. St. Audries, 19.VIII.29.

THAUMALEIDAE (ORPHNEPHILIDAE)

- Thaumalea (Orphnephila) testacea*, Ruthè. St. Audries,  
26.VIII.29.

TENDIPEDIDAE (CHIRONOMIDAE)

- Trichotanypus culiciformis*, L. Nailsea, 21.IV.27.

CERATOPOGONIDAE

- Bezzia nigrifula*, Ztt. (*Probezzia tenebricosa*, Goet.). Rodney  
Stoke, 6.IV.29.

CULICIDAE

- Anopheles plumbeus*, Steph. St. Audries, 18.VIII.29.

TIPULIDAE

- Pachyrrhina analis*, Schum. Leigh Woods, 3.IX.24.  
*Tipula selene*, Mg. Keynsham, 1.VI.29.

EMPIDIDAE

- Hilard (Oreogeton) Flavipes*, Mg. St. Audries, 30.VIII.29. One  
specimen with abnormal venation.  
*Empis vitripennis*, Mg. St. Audries, 30.VIII.29. One specimen  
with abnormal venation.

DOLICHOPODIDAE

- Eutarsus aulicus*, Mg. St. Audries, 27.VIII.29.  
*Dolichopas lineaticornis*, Ztt. St. Audries, 19.VIII.29.  
*Dolichopus pennatus*, Mg. Tickenham, 11.IV.29.  
*Xiphandrium appendiculatum*. Ztt. St. Audries, 27.VIII.29.

DORYLAIDAE (PIPUNCULIDAE)

- Pipunculus pulchripes*, Thoms. St. Audries, 1.IX.29.

## SYRPHIDAE

*Chilosia honesta*, Rnd. Rodney Stoke, 17.IV.29.

## TACHINIDAE

*Lydina aenea*, Mg. (*Somolia rehaptizata*, Rnd.). St. Audries, 24.VIII.29.

*Phryxe nemea*, Mg. Keynsham, 1.VI.29.

*Gonia ornata*, Mg. Berrow, 8.IV.29.

*Actia pilipennis*, Mg. West Town, 1928 (H. Womersley).

*Tachina larvarum*, L. West Town, 21.VIII.28 (H. Womersley).

*Pelatachina tibialis*, Fln. Keynsham, 1.VI.29.

*Myiocera carinifrons*, Fln. St. Audries, 24.VIII.29.

*Sarcophaga aratrix*, Pond. St. Audries, 24.VIII.29.

*Sarcophaga crassimargo*, Pond. Keysham, 1.VI.29.

*Lucilia richardsi*, Col. Rodney Stoke, 6.IV.29.

## ANTHOMYINAE

*Hammomyia grisea*, Fln. St. Audries, 20.VIII.29.

*Limnophora setinerva*, Schnbl. (*exsurda* Stein). St. Audries, 19.VIII.29.

*L. triangula*, Fln. Tickenham, 11.V.29.

*Hebecnema fumosa*, Mg. Sharpham, 19.V.29.

*Pycnoglossa* (*Pogonomyza*, *Hylemya*) *flavipennis*, Fln. St. Audries, 30.VIII.29.

*Fannia postica*, Stein. Keynsham, 1.VI.29.

*Hydrotaea albipuncta*, Ztt. 1.VI.29.

*H. meteorica*, L. St. Audries, 24.VIII.29.

## HELOMYZIDAE

*Amabaleria coesia*, Mg. Banwell Caves, 20.X.28.

*Heteromyza oculata*, Fln. St. Audries, 24.VIII.29.

## TRYPETIDAE

*Acidia cognata*, W. Dunster, Aug. 1916.

*Spilographa artemisiae*, F. Tickenham, Sept. 1921.

SEPSIDAE

*Sepsis incisa*, Strbl. St. Audries, 29.VIII.29.

EPHYDRIDAE

*Philhygia interrupta*, Hal. Berrow, 6.IV.29.

CHLOROPIDAE

*Notonaulax (Oscinis) Lineella*, Flin. Knowle, 1927.

*N. cincta*, Mg.: *Oscinis sulcella*, Ztt. St. Audries, 18.VIII.29.

AGROMYZIDAE

*Ochithphila geniculata*, Hal. St. Audries, 19.VIII.29.

PHYTOMYZIDAE

*Phytomyza ranunculi*, Schrk. Nailsea, 21.IV.27.

APHANIPTERA (SIPHONAPTERA)

I regret to say that I have only one addition to make to these. Mr. Whish brought me for inspection a live specimen of *Nyctalus noctua*, the large bat, the first individual of which species I have had the chance to handle. I found three fleas on it of the species *Ischnopsyllus elongatus*, Cart. which has not been recorded for Somerset before.

I may add that *Ischnopsyllus simplex* is regarded by Mr. Rothschild as rare, and as only found on Natterer's bat (*Myotis Nattereri*), a rare bat I have never handled. But I have found *Ischnopsyllus simplex* once on the Greater Horseshoe bat, and thrice on *Myotis mystacinus*, the Whiskered Bat.



## The Ornithological Section

*President and Chief Recorder*—The Rev. F. L. BLATHWAYT, M.B.O.U.,  
Dyham Rectory, Chippenham, Wilts.

*Vice-Presidents*—Colonel J. W. GIFFORD, F.R.A.S., and Mr. E. W. HENDY.

*Secretary and Treasurer*—Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, F.S.A., Taunton Castle.

THE 1929 Annual Meeting of the Section was held in the Wyndham Hall, Taunton Castle, on 19 March, when the President, the Rev. F. L. Blathwayt, occupied the chair ; there was a fairly good attendance.

The Treasurer presented the financial statement for 1928, which showed a balance in hand on 31 December of £14 17s. 7d. On the other hand there was the liability of the cost of the Report for that year to be taken into consideration. There was also on deposit at the bank the sum of £21 4s. 0d., set aside as a special reserve fund.

All the Officers of the Section were re-elected, and thanked for their services. It was decided to increase the number of Recorders, and the following were added for the Districts I to VII :

I, Mr. Coldstream Tuckett ; II, Mr. J. Parker Rhodes, F.Z.S. ; III, Mr. Ernest G. Holt ; IV, Dr. G. Forden ; V, Mr. Richard Eames, junr. ; VI, Dr. H. Downes, F.L.S. ; VII, Mr. S. G. Williams.

The Fifteenth Report on Somerset Birds (1928), edited by the President, with the assistance of Mr. B. W. Tucker and the Rev. C. J. Pring, was sent out to the members at the end of February. Owing to some of the members having so well supported the Publication and Illustration Fund it had been possible to give four plates of illustrations instead of one, or two, as previously.

The autumn meeting of the Section was held at the same



place on 4 October, and was attended by thirty-two members. Eleven new members were elected at this and the spring meeting.

The following resolution, proposed by Mr. E. W. Hendy, seconded by Mr. Coldstream Tuckett, was carried by eighteen votes to eleven: 'That in future no person shall become a member of the Section unless he first declares in writing that he will not take the eggs and skins of any bird protected by law; and that any member proved to the satisfaction of a general meeting of the Section to have taken or incited to take the eggs or skins of such bird shall forthwith cease to be a member of the Section.'

In the afternoon Mr. Coldstream Tuckett gave a lecture, entitled 'Bird Photography', which was illustrated by a fine series of lantern slides from photographs by the lecturer and Mr. R. P. Gait.

During the year among the additions to the bird collections was a White-fronted Goose, *Anser albifrons* (Scop.), male, Woodspring, near Weston-super-Mare, given by Mr. E. Gerald Holt; and a Storm-Petrel, *Hydrobates pelagicus* (L.), Burnham-on-Sea, given by Messrs. W. D. Miller and E. G. Holt.

Among the books added to the library were *Bird Watching on Scott Head*, by Miss E. L. Turner, and *Introduction to the Study of Bird Behaviour*, by Elliott Howard.

H. ST. GEORGE GRAY.

## The Botanical Section

*President*—Dr. W. WATSON, A.L.S.

*Committee*—Dr. H. DOWNES, F.L.S., Mr. N. G. HADDEN, Mr. E. J. HAMLIN,  
Miss I. M. ROPER, F.L.S., and Mr. H. S. THOMPSON.

*Secretary and Treasurer*—Mr. W. D. MILLER, Audrey, Burnham-on-Sea.

THE Annual General Meeting was held at the Castle, Taunton, on February 27, 1929, when the usual business was transacted. The accounts were passed, showing a balance in hand of £7 10s. 5d. It was decided to add £5 to the deposit account and to subscribe 10s. to the upkeep of the Sharpham Moor Plot. Dr. Downes presented to the library a copy of the rare pamphlet *Geographical Distribution of Vegetation in Somerset* by C. E. Moss. The report for 1928 was adopted with thanks to the Secretary. Mr. E. J. Hamlin of Bridgwater was unanimously elected on the Committee. Dr. Watson gave an interesting address on 'Where and why some Plants are at Home', illustrated on the screen by photographs and diagrams. Mr. Miller read a note on 'Some Somerset Plants which are threatened with Extinction'. Votes of thanks to the speakers were passed, and to Mr. A. H. Cowan for kindly acting as lanternist.

On June 1 about a dozen members visited Thorney marshes under the leadership of Dr. Downes. The usual rhine flora was seen, mostly in very early condition. Mr. Hamlin detected *Wolffia arrhiza*, which was afterwards found to be abundant in many places. *Carex vesicaria*, till recently unknown in Somerset, was plentiful, and a small patch of *Stellaria palustris* was noticed. The party walked back through Muchelney to Langport for tea. Fine weather added to the pleasure of the expedition, and the results obtained justified the policy of visiting new ground.



On June 2 in perfect weather a party of twenty-three members and friends, many driving from Taunton, visited Ebbor Rocks. The flora is a typical Mendip one, but lacks the distinguishing plants of Cheddar, and hardly repays a special visit. *Geranium sanguineum* in some quantity was noted in one spot, and Mr. Thompson records from a narrow lane above Easton, *Agrimonia odorata*. Tea was taken at Wookey Hole.

On Friday, July 12, a dozen members met at East Anstey station, on the western border of the county. Marshy and moorland pastures provided a typical but not remarkable flora; the lane sides were covered with a profusion of well-known flowers, but the small extent of woodland examined was barren. Among the more interesting plants noticed were a hairy-stemmed form of *Viola palustris*, *Trifolium medium*, *Rosa tomentosa*, *Wahlenbergia hederacea*, *Pinguicula lusitanica*, and many sedges, including *C. Oederi*. It seems probable that the ground carefully worked is typical of the rough country seen on both sides of the railway for many miles, and that the district is not likely to provide unexpected treasures. No sign was observed of *Bartsia viscosa* (recorded from the neighbouring parish in Devon). Dr. Watson notes that the common clover of this part of Somerset is the zigzag clover, and the knapweed is represented chiefly by the rayless form. Both these plants seem to be able to grow on the barren soils, and both are rather sandstone than calcareous plants. A welcome tea at the Carnarvon Arms, Dulverton Station, concluded a pleasant afternoon's work.

An expedition to Bossington on July 27 was abandoned owing to the absence of the President, Secretary and half a dozen other members, who were enjoying the unique flora of Ben Lawers and the neighbouring hills of Perthshire.

Climatically the season has been abnormal in many ways. The late winter delayed plant development till well on in March. A fairly representative British census of plants in bloom on March 1 reached only 68 per cent. of the average, while in the neighbourhood of Burnham on that date not a single species could be found in flower. There followed a long spell of dry weather, but with sun and a little moisture vegetation had almost reached the normal stage of development by the end of



June. Again in the autumn hot sun and partial drought caused rapid maturity and decline of plant life, though an October 31 census recorded an average number of plants still in bloom. Many trees were early: the ash flowered by April 2. Its average in mid-Somerset is about April 25, though Gilbert White gave its flowering period from April 1 to May 4.

Despite the fine weather and luxuriance of vegetation throughout most of the summer, the notes sent in have been far below the average in number and interest. The number of members, however, who sent in records is on the increase. It is to be hoped that every member will be sufficiently interested to place on record the results of his observations in the field. The study of such genera as *Euphrasia*, *Fumaria*, *Epilobium* or *Viola* in greater detail should appeal to a larger number of members.

The alteration and widening of roads has exposed a number of dormant seeds, and provided ample beds for their luxuriant growth. An examination of these seed beds is of considerable interest, and might be more widely undertaken.

Among additions to the flora of the Gore Sands at Burnham (9) Mr. Thompson notes a *Rumex*, *Triglochin palustre*, *Carex vulpina* and *Glyceria distans*. The juxtaposition of the two Arrowgrasses is peculiar. The same author's 'Further Changes in the Coast Vegetation near Berrow', with six photographs, appears in the *Journal of Ecology*, 1930.

In the autumn Mr. H. S. Thompson investigated the interesting vegetation on the extensive areas of mud, sand and gravel at Blagdon Reservoir, where he also took photographs on August 20. Over seventy species of phanerogamic plants were listed, and the increase of *Littorella* on both n. and s. banks, together with the establishment of a much larger colony of *Scirpus maritimus* well below highwater level, were noted. But the most interesting feature was the first colonisation of the mud by countless seedlings of *Chenopodium rubrum* and its prostrate variety. This fleshy annual is dominant throughout the whole area; and Mr. Thompson points out in articles in *The Field*, December 14, and in the *Journal of Botany*, January 1930, that it and some other abundant plants at Blagdon in 1929 were the same species as those collected by him after the



drought of 1893 in several reservoirs and lakes in Warwickshire and Worcestershire. At Blagdon much of the mud has been dug and carted to slightly higher ground, but already by September certain plants were colonising some of the new surfaces cleared by the spade. Among these were *Chenopodium rubrum*, *Polygonum* spp., *Nasturtium sylvestre*, *Alisma plantago* and *Juncus tenuis*. Many specimens of all but the *Juncus* were flowering by September.

A short selection from the notes sent in follows :

*Paeonia corallina* Retz. (9) Steep Holm was visited by several parties between May 23 and June 15. The peony was seen in several scattered places on the rocks, flowering well. Fortunately it is very inaccessible.

*Teesdalia nudicaulis* Br. (2) Has reappeared on Porlock Hill. *N. G. Hadden.*

*Viola epipsila* Led. (1) Near Brushford. Despite the acceptance of this species as British by Mrs. Gregory and other authorities, the identification has been questioned by modern criticism (cf. A. J. Wilmott in Suppl. Babington). So far as Somerset is concerned it remains more than doubtful whether luxuriant and unusually pubescent forms of *Viola palustris* have not been ascribed to Ledebour's species in error.

*Lychnis Preslii* Sekera. (2) Williton. *Miss A. Wyndham.* This rare alien from Hungary, identified by Dr. Druce, resembles *L. dioica*, but is glabrous.

*Medicago sylvestris* Fries. (10) St. Anne's Park, Bristol, with purplish blue flowers. *G. Watts (teste E. Drabble).*

*Trifolium resupinatum* L. (3) Combech. *G. Watts.*

*Oxycoccus quadripetala* Gilib. (2) Marshy spot between Dunkery Hill Gate and the top. *R. Orme.* The late Miss Saunders of S. Molton recorded in the *Journal of Botany* for February 1914 the find of this plant ' a few yards within the Somerset border ' growing with *Empetrum*. The spot was visited by Mr. Hiern, accompanied by Messrs. Brokenshire and Taylor of Barnstaple in 1915. It is about 30 yards on the Somerset side of Setta Barrow, s.w. of Simonsbath. The plant can no longer be found there. With this exception, Major Orme's find is the first record of the Cranberry on Exmoor. There is, however, little doubt that it remains to be found in other

- sphagnum bogs in the district, notably in Acmead Bog, near Alderman's Barrow, and in the wet bog on the N.E. slope of Span Head.
- Limonium binervosum* C. E. Salmon. (9) Still on Brean Down. *H. Corder*, and on Steep Holm. *W. D. Miller*.
- Linaria repens* Mill. (9) On disused light railway, Clevedon. *G. Pownall*.
- Euphrasia brevipila* Burnat and Gremli. (1) Near Dulverton. *W. Watson*. Previous records are confined to the peat moor, Mendip and Bristol districts.
- Utricularia* sp. (8) On the peat moor no species of Bladderwort was seen this year in flower, and only one bloom in 1928. *W. D. Miller*.
- Chenopodium polyspermum* L. (8) Roadside, East Brent. *W. D. Miller*.
- Helleborine latifolia* Druce. (9) Some fifty spikes close together, Cheddar Gorge. *W. D. Miller*.
- H. longifolia* Britten. (3) Adcombe, near Corfe. *C. J. Bartlett*.
- Tulipa sylvestris* L. (5) At Wheathill, where it was first discovered by the Rev. W. G. Paterson in 1912. There is a considerable patch of the plant, but only one bloom was seen, April 29. *W. D. Miller*.
- Wolffia arrhiza* Wimm. (4) Thorney, abundant. *E. J. Hamlin*.
- Zannichellia gibberosa* Reichb. (3) Bankland, North Newton. *G. Watts*. Only previously recorded by Mr. Thompson from the canal at Bridgwater, but few botanists study the various forms of the genus, and it may be more frequent than indicated by the records.
- Scirpus Savii* Seb. and Maur. (9) Still very fine at Walton-in-Gordano, where it was discovered by Mr. White in 1900.
- Carex rostrata* Stokes. (1) Near Dulverton. *W. Watson*. (2) Acmead Bog. *N. G. Hadden*. A rare sedge, and certainly less 'abundant' on the peat moor.
- Lagurus ovatus* L. (9) Roadside between Berrow and Brean. This beautiful grass is native in Guernsey, and established over a wide area of sand-hills in Jersey. It may take hold with us. Details of its introduction are not at present available. *W. D. Miller*.
- Festuca elatior* L. (1) Near Brushford. *W. Watson* ; new for (1).



Among cryptogams new to the county Dr. Watson reports the moss *Ceratodon chloropus* Brid., discovered last May at Walton-in-Gordano by the Rev. C. H. Binstead, and new to the British Isles. Also *Fissidens Curnowii* Mitt., from Hodder's Combe, Quantocks, and among lichens the following species :  
*Bilimbia chlorococca* var. *hilarior* Th. Fr. and Hult. On pines, Greenaleigh Farm, Minehead.

*Rhizocarpon chlorophaeum* (Hepp.) A.L.Sm. On wall, Volis Hill, near Taunton.

*Arthonia gregaria* var. *pruinata* (Del.) A.L.Sm. On walnut tree, Adcombe, near Taunton.

By the kind invitation of the Torquay Natural History Society, the annual conference of the South-Western Naturalists' Union was held at Torquay under the presidency of Dr. F. A. Bather, F.R.S., from May 17 to 20. An excellent programme had been arranged. A fascinating lecture, illustrated by the lantern, was given on Saturday evening by Sir John Russell on 'The Conquest of Waste Spaces'. On May 19 a delightful trip on Dartmoor was taken. The stones near Princetown were visited and their astronomical and other uses commented upon. The iron and kaolin works near Bovey were visited. Geology, entomology, botany and archæology were delightfully intermixed so as to form a pleasant day.

A short notice of our records at the present day may be of interest. The Rev. R. P. Murray's *Flora of Somerset*, published in 1896, was a fairly complete history and catalogue of the plants of the county up to that date, particularly as Mr. Murray himself had made a special study of *Rubus* and to a lesser extent of *Rosa*. Sixteen years later appeared Mr. J. W. White's *Flora of Bristol*. This book provided, for practically the whole of North Somerset (down to a line drawn through Combwich on the Parret and Shepton Mallet to the county boundary at Longleat), so complete a catalogue of phanerogamic plant life, that comparatively few additions have since been made in that area. Later in the same year (1912) appeared Mrs. Gregory's exhaustive monograph on British Violets. Lastly in 1914 the Rev. E. S. Marshall published his *Supplement to the Flora of Somerset*. In addition to information already given in the *Bristol Flora*, this book contains several thousands

of notes supplementary to Murray's *Flora*. In the *Supplement*, *Viola* is dealt with in the light of Mrs. Gregory's monograph, *Hieracium* has the benefit of Mr. Marshall's own intensive study, and such critical genera as *Euphrasia*, *Mentha* and *Epilobium* are carried about as far as appears to serve any useful purpose. Between the publication of the *Supplement* and his death in 1919, Mr. Marshall kept the most careful notes of all information which reached him, and there are some 2,000 such notes entered in his own interleaved copy.

Finally, for the last ten years all duly attested additional records have been entered on a card index, at least 2,000 such records having been noted.

It is therefore obvious that statistics as to the status and distribution of any particular species are readily available, especially in regard to the N. of the county. It is still advisable to record the occurrence of comparatively rare plants in new stations, particularly in the S.E. of the county, whence practically no records have been received for at least twenty-five years. Notes published might suggest that rare plants and interesting varieties were rapidly increasing in the county. Such is far from the case.

Acuter criticism and an increase in the number of field botanists add much to the positive evidence at our disposal, but to arrive at a correct estimate of the present condition of the county flora—with the help of which estimate we can alone compare it with that of a bygone time, and our descendants with that of their own—a vast amount of work is required in observing and recording negative results, i.e. the absence of a species where ecological and other facts might make one expect it, or from early recorded stations. It is strongly urged that the Recorder may have the assistance of all our members in dealing with this aspect of Somerset botany.

There are at present sixty-four members of the Section.