

## 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*—Mr. C. J. PERRENS, 6, Park Road, Bridgwater.

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

THE Annual Meeting was held at Taunton Castle on Wednesday, February 23, 1927; a stormy day caused the attendance to be small. After the Minutes were read and confirmed, the Treasurer's accounts, showing a balance of £1 5s. 0d., were passed, and the Hon. Secretary's stationery and postage (15s. 2d.) accounts were passed.

Finding that some of the members had paid no subscription for five years, and that many were a year or two behind, Mr. C. J. Perrens was appointed Assistant-Treasurer, and a by-law, similar to that in use by the Parent Society, was passed to the effect that members whose subscriptions were unpaid by December 31st became 'dormant'; at the end of the following year they cease to be members without notice, but can be restored after full payment if the Section so wills.

All the officers were re-elected, and Field Meetings were arranged. Mr. E. G. Holt, the Hall, Burnham, was elected a member.

It was decided, finally, to ask the Lepidopterist members to search their duplicates, and send any needed by the Section for its County type collection, to Taunton Castle, and the Assistant-Treasurer was requested to circulate marked lists of *desiderata*.

The year has been an unpropitious one in respect of weather for Entomology. No further field-days were arranged, the attendance at the three fixed at the Annual Meeting having been very small. Most of the present report comes from

honorary members of the Section, though the chief purpose and object of a county body like ours is the working out of the county *fauna* by the members.

We badly need some one to take up the Earwigs, Cockroaches, and Grasshoppers (*Orthoptera*); the Lace-wings, Scorpion flies, and May flies (*Neuroptera*), and the *Hemiptera* (all sub-orders). It would be well, also, if we could do more in the way of collecting material for one another.

The records are arranged in the order suggested by Dr. Sharp in the *Cambridge Natural History*, 1901.

Mr. Womersley sends me the following additions to the Somerset Insect Fauna, some of which have appeared in the *Entom. M. Magazine*, vol. lxiii, but should also appear here.

#### APTERYGOTA

##### Order *Thysanura*

*Petrobius sylvestri*, Wom. Brean and Kewstoke (Wom.). 10th Sept. 1927.

##### Order *Protura*

*Acerentomon nemorale*, Wom. Brockley Combe, 17.iv.26.

*A. oblongum*, Wom. Brockley Combe, Oct. 26.

*Acerentulus confinis*, Berl. Brockley and Backwell Hills, III.25-6.

*Paraentomon clevedonense*, Wom. Norton Wood, Clevedon, 21.IX.26.

*Eosentomon ribagai*, Berl. Backwell Hills, 27.XI.26, etc.

During a short visit to Mark, the following species were met with, which do not appear to have been recorded from Somerset, viz. :

*Entomobrya nicoleti*, Lubbock. Myrtle House, Mark, 15.x.27.

*Campodea meinerli*, Bagn. Myrtle House, Mark, 15.x.27.

*C. lubbocki*, Silv. Myrtle House, Mark, 15.x.27.

*Hypogastrura purpurascens*, Lubbock. Myrtle House, Mark, 15.x.27.

*Neelus murinus*, Fol. Myrtle House, Mark, 15.x.27.



## PSOCOPTERA

Not one of this sub-order of minute insects has yet been recorded in Somerset literature, but Mr. J. V. Pearman, who is working them, has very kindly made me a list of the species he has so far met with in the county.

*Mesopsocus unipunctatus*, Mull. Leigh Woods, Portbury, etc.

*Elipsocus westwoodi*, McLach. Weston Big Wood, Portishead, May 1927. Failand, Portbury, Leigh Woods.

*E. hyalinus*, Steph. Vallis Vale, Frome. Backwell.

*Psocus bifasciatus*, Latr. Leigh Woods, Backwell, Berrow (the latter unusually late—August).

*P. quadrimaculatus*, Latr. Dunster (fide McLachlan, *E.M.M.* 1890, p. 287).

*P. fasciatus*, Fabr. Weston Big Wood, Portishead, May 1927.

*P. sexpunctatus*, L. Vallis Vale, Frome, June 1927.

*P. nebulosus*, Steph. Leigh Woods, 6.VIII.27.

*Stenopsocus immaculatus*, Steph. Leigh Woods, Backwell, etc.

*Graphopsocus cruciatus*, L. Many localities, ubiquitous.

*Caecilius fuscopertus*, Latr. Backwell.

*C. flavidus*, Steph. Leigh Woods. Failand.

*C. Kolbei*, Tetens. Brean Sandhills, August 1924, 1926.

*Trichopsocus dalii*, McLach. Wembdon, Capt. Troup's hot-house.

*Bertkauia lucifuga*, Rambur. Leigh Woods, Backwell, Cadbury Camp. (Shepton Mallet, H. Womersley).

*Reuterella helvimacula*, Enderl. Leigh Woods, Backwell.

*Pterodela pedicularia*, L. Leigh Woods, Backwell.

*Peripsocus phaeopterus*, Steph. Failand, Vallis Vale, Frome.

*P. subpupillatus*, McLach. Backwell, July 1927.

*Psyllipsocus ramburii*, Selys. Brean.

*Atropos pulsatoria*, L. Berrow, in a house.

*Hyperetes guestphalicus*, Kolbe. Brean sandhills (Cannington, Mr. Slater's garden, H. Womersley).

*Pteroxanium squamosum*, Enderl. Cannington, Mr. Slater's garden, H.W.

*Troctes divinatorius*, Mull. Berrow and Cannington, in houses.

*Ectopsocus briggisi*, McLach. 'I believe I have had this from Somerset sources, but cannot trace the record. It is a common species.'

## ICHNEUMONIDÆ

*Ichneumoninæ*

19. *Coelichneumon sugillatorius*, L. Shapwick, 27.VIII.27.  
70. *Melanichneumon Faunus*, Grav. Shapwick, 27.VIII.27.  
91. *Barichneumon lepidus*, Gr. Shapwick, 3.IX.27.  
103. *Ichneumon latrator*, Fab. Shapwick, 16.VII.27.  
132. *I. emancipator*, Fab. Shapwick, 16.VII.27.  
280. *Dicaelotus pumilus*, Gr. Shapwick, 3.IX.27.

*Cryptinæ*

350. *Acanthocryptus quadrispinosus*, Gr. Shapwick, 3.IX.27.  
463. *Hemiteles argentatus*, Gr. Shapwick, 16.VII.27.  
561. *Exolytus laevigatus*, Gr. Shapwick, 27.VIII.27.  
576. *Spilocryptus abbreviator*, Fab. Holford, Quantocks,  
29.VII.26.

*Pimplinæ*

637. *Rhyssa persuasoria*, L. Stoke St. Mary, 13.VI.27 (Mr. F. Drew).  
667. *Pimpla brevicornis*, Gr. Shapwick, 27.VIII.27.  
675. *P. nucum*, Rtz. Shapwick, 3.IX.27.  
708-b. (*Clistopyga sauberi*, Brauns). Shapwick, 27.VII.27.  
729. *Glypta pedata*, Desv. Berrow, 6.VIII.27.  
741. *G. lineata*, Desv. Shapwick, 16.VII.27.  
791. *Phytodiaetus polyzonias*, Forst. Shapwick, 16.VII.27.  
792. *P. coryphaeus*, Gr. Shapwick, 3.IX.27.  
810. *Oedematopsis scabricula*, Gr. Mark, 27.VIII.27.

*Tryphoninæ*

914. *Bassus multicolor*, Gr. Shapwick, 3.IX.27.  
1000. *Mesoleius multicolor*, Gr. Shapwick, 16.VII.27.  
1018. *Tryphon signator*, Gr. Shapwick, 16.VII.27.  
1068. *Mesoleptus macrodactylus*, Hlgr. Shapwick, 22.VI.27.  
1114. *Prionopoda glabra*, Bdg. Shapwick, 16.VII.27.  
1133. *Polyblastus cothurnatus*, Gr. Shapwick, 3.IX.27.  
1149. *Erromenus brunnicans*, Gr. Shapwick, 27.VIII.27.



*Ophioninae*

1215. *Cremastus geminus*, Gr. Berrow, 6.VIII.27.  
 1260. *Sagaritis Holmgreni*, Tsch. Shapwick, 16.VII.27.  
 1315. *Omorga Faunus*, Hlgr. Berrow, 6.VIII.27.  
 1349. *Meloboris crassicornis*, Gr. Shapwick, 27.VIII.27.  
 1350. *Pectenella latungula*, Th. Shapwick, 27.VIII.27.  
 1367. *Angitia claripennis*, Th. Shapwick, 3.IX.27.  
 1503. *Mesochorus confusus*, Hlgr. Mark, 26.VII.27.

Of No. 637, a giant Ichneumon which attracted a good deal of notice at Stoke St. Mary on June 13th, and was exhibited in Taunton Market, whence Mr. St. George Gray rescued it, and which reached me in a very dilapidated condition, Mr. Morley says, 'Not rare; is a parasite on *Sirex gigas*'. The latter is the large dangerous-looking wood wasp, probably originally brought, and still imported, from Norway in timber—and this parasite with—or in—it, but now quite established in some British fir woods, especially in Scotland.

Of No. 708b Mr. Morley says 'it is a common British species, but at present unrecorded. I have a dozen ♀♀ (or 'females') only, and consider it to be *C. sauberi*, Brauns.'

The numbers preceding the names above are those from the *Catalogue of the British Ichneumonidae*, by Mr. Claude Morley, F.E.S., who has kindly looked over the foregoing, which, excepting No. 637, are all of my own collecting.

## TRICHOPTERA

I should have supposed that such a wet season as the present has been would have suited the water insects, but I have only come across three that are new to the county, viz. :

- Limnophilus marmoratus*, Curt. Shapwick, 22.VI and 3.IX.27.  
*L. vittatus*, Fab. Shapwick, 22.VI.27.  
*Lype phoeopa*, Steph. Shapwick, 22.VI.27.

I want some one to be kind enough to collect these insects for me in the s. and e. of the county. Many come to light like Lepidoptera; some even visit ivy-bloom.

## HYMENOPTERA

*Aculeata*

*Psen (Mimesa) dahlbomi*, Wesm. Shapwick, no date.

*Psammochares (Pompilus) pectinipes*, V. de Lind. Do., N.D.

*Agenia hircana*, Fab. Callow Hill. N.D. . N.D.

These were taken by Mr. J. Balfour-Browne, and are sent by Mr. Martineau, F.E.S.

## COLEOPTERA

Miss Barrington has written an excellent paper in the *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine* (lxiii, no. 759) on Somerset water beetles, in which are mentioned several species which have not appeared in Somerset records, and are accordingly mentioned here.

*Cnemidodus impressus*, F. Petherton Levels, 12.VIII.22.

*Oxyptilus (Hydrovatus) clypealis*, Shp. Chilton Trinity Brick Ponds, 17.VIII.26.

*Hydroporus umbrosus*, Gyll. Turf Moor, 22.IV.24.

*H. obscurus*, Stm. Priddy, 9.IX.24.

*H. nigrita*, F. Priddy, 9.IX.24.

*H. memnonius*, Nic. Ebbor, 9.IX.24.

*Agabus didymus*, Ol. Shapwick, 17.VIII.24.

*A. conspersus*, Msh. Chilton T. Brick Ponds, 17.VIII.26.

*A. sturmi*, Gyll. Shapwick, 19.IX.23.

*Platambus maculatus*, L. Kilve, 5.IX.23.

*Rhantus punctatus*, Geoff. Chilton T. Brick Ponds, 17.VIII.26.

*R. notatus*, Berg. Turf Moor, 22.VIII.24.

*R. bistriatus*, Berg. Do., 27.IX.22.

*Gyrinus edwardsii*, Shp. Sedgemoor, 7.IX.23.

## LEPIDOPTERA

Mr. A. R. Hayward has bred a short series of *Plodia interpunctella*, Hb., a Phycid, from dried currants supplied by a grocer. I cannot find any previous record from Somerset. He has also taken *Chrysoclysta schrankella*, Hb., near Misterton.



on June 13.27, another new record ; and also *Coleophora conyzae*, Zell., which has only once previously been recorded from Somerset, when it was taken, a single larva, by Mr. Grigg near Bristol, years ago ; now taken near Misterton, 28.vi.27.

Mr. W. R. Taylor, Clifton College, took a male of *S. fagi*, L., in Leigh Woods on June 4th, the second occurrence there of four records in all.

Mr. C. J. Perrens has taken several of the less common Lepidoptera this season ; the following were taken at Holford by him.

*Cleora glabraria*, Hb. A single one taken on the Quantocks by Mr. Corder is mentioned in the *Victoria County History*.

In 1908 I took some two dozen in the Luxborough Valley.

Mr. Perrens has taken it again on the Quantocks.

*Notodonta dodonea*, Hb. First taken near Evercreech in larval form by the Rev. E. Todd (see *V.C.H.*). I took one at light at Withycombe, 11.vi.09. Mr. Perrens' is the third occurrence in Somerset.

*Agrotis cinerea* is an odd insect, occurring nearly everywhere, but only singly at intervals. I have only seen one in Somerset. It seems more plentiful in N. Wales than elsewhere, and again in the s.e. of England.

#### HEMIPTERA

(Which badly need a worker)

*Chilacis typhae*, Perr. Shapwick, in last year's heads of *Typha latifolia*, July 16.27. Identified by Mr. H. R. P. Cobett, Manchester, for Mr. Audcent and me.

HENRY SLATER.

## The Ornithological Section

*President and Chief Recorder*—The Rev. F. L. BLATHWAYT, M.B.O.U.,  
Melbury Osmund Rectory, Dorchester, Dorset.

*Vice-Presidents*—Colonel J. W. GIFFORD and Mr. E. W. HENDY.

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

THE 1927 Annual Meeting of the Section was held at the Somerset County Museum on March 18th, when the President, the Rev. F. L. Blathwayt, occupied the chair ; there was a good attendance.

The Treasurer presented the financial statement for 1926, which showed a balance in hand on December 31st of £14 14s. 0d. 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 £28 19s. 0d. set aside as the Somerset Egg Cabinet Fund.

The President, Vice-Presidents, Recorders, and the Secretary and Treasurer were re-elected. To the list of Recorders was added Mr. W. H. Rendell to act jointly with Mr. B. W. Tucker for the Taunton district. The year closed with exactly one hundred members.

The Thirteenth Report on Somerset Birds (1926), edited by the President, was sent out to the members at the end of February. It was the longest of the series, with thirty-four pages. It will be impossible to increase the length of the report until the membership of the Section is larger or the subscription raised. Members are invited to subscribe to the Illustration Fund ; so far this fund has been supported only by those in the habit of attending the meetings of the Section.

Coward's *Birds of the British Isles*, ser. 3, has been purchased this year. From a special fund the Section has been able to purchase *British Birds*, vols. i-viii, xii, xiii, and some missing parts of vols. ix, x and xi. This makes the Society's set of



this magazine complete to date. The Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain has given a complete set of the *Migration Reports* published by the British Ornithologists' Club.

In 1926 the Section decided to try to obtain a more comprehensive order for the protection of wild birds and their eggs in Somerset, and a small committee was appointed to confer with the County Council. This committee prepared enlarged lists of birds and eggs which they suggested should be protected, and also proposed that Exmoor should be made an additional protected area for all wild birds, with certain exceptions, and their eggs. With slight amendments these proposals were approved by the County Council and incorporated in a new draft order. In 1927 the Home Office, to whom this order was then submitted, advised that certain portions of it should be omitted for the present, and also pointed out that under the present law legal difficulties prevented Exmoor being made a protected area, if any birds were exempted. The Wild Birds Protection Bill would have got over this difficulty, but it failed to become law. The County Council has prepared a revised order, which will give wider protection to eggs, and this is receiving the consideration of the Home Office. In the meantime arrangements have been made to appoint watchers in the Winsford (Exmoor) district.

On March 18th (in the afternoon) the Section, in conjunction with the Taunton Field Club, held a meeting at the Gaiety Cinema, Taunton, when Captain C. W. R. Knight, M.C., F.R.P.S., M.B.O.U., described his Bird Film and other pictures in a delightful lecture entitled 'The Golden Eagle'. This was much appreciated by a large audience and voted a great success.

The autumn meeting was held in the Wyndham Lecture Hall, Taunton Castle, on October 13th, which took place two days after the hall had been opened for the use of the Society. There was a morning meeting, and in the afternoon four lecturettes were given, all of which were illustrated by a good series of lantern slides. Nearly two hundred pictures were shown by means of the new electric lantern, manipulated by Mr. Alec Cowan. The following subjects made up the programme :

(1) Birds and their Nests in Ireland, Holland, Lapland and Siberia ; by Mr. H. Leyborne Popham, M.B.O.U.

(2) Birds and Travel in Algeria and Tunisia ; by the Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain, M.B.O.U.

(3) The Birds of Brean Down, Somerset ; by Mr. Harry Cox, F.Z.S.

(4) Birds of Exmoor and the central flats of Somerset ; by the Rev. C. J. Pring, M.B.O.U.

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,  
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 of the above Section was held at the Museum, Taunton Castle, on December 15th, 1926, Dr. Watson, President, in the chair. The attendance of members was disappointing. The accounts for the year were passed, showing a balance in hand of £10 6s. 10d., and it was decided to pay over to the parent society the sum of £5 to be ear-marked for a fund for the better display of the herbarium. Other small payments were authorized. The report of the committee for the previous season was presented, and a part of it was read to the meeting. Dr. Watson presented to the library a copy of his *Elementary Botany*, recently published. Miss Roper and Dr. Downes, respectively, brought some sheets of various forms of *Lolium* and *Carex flava*, and Dr. Downes read some interesting notes on the latter. He also exhibited some sheets of *Diotis maritima* (not a Somerset plant), and Dr. Watson some *Fungi*.

In accordance with suggestions made at the above meeting, field days were held during the season at Bewley Down, Dunkery Beacon, and Edington Junction. The practical difficulties were too great to carry out some of the other suggestions.

In spite of threatening weather, which afterwards interfered rather seriously with the day's outing, a party of eighteen met at Bewley Down on June 18, 1927, the majority travelling by motor from Taunton. The rich bog and heath flora was examined, and among interesting plants found were *Sagina*

*ciliata*, *Radiola linoides*, *Rhamnus frangula*, the three sundews (with the hybrid *D. obovata*) *Pinguicula lusitanica*, *Habenaria bifolia*, *Carex fulva*, *C. oederi*, and *Lycopodium selago*. Miss Beviss kindly entertained the members to tea, which was much appreciated by the rather damp party.

On July 7th an expedition was undertaken to Dunkery Beacon, a small party of members, and boys from Taunton School, driving in heavy rain to Dunkery Hill Gate *via* Dunster. The weather cleared just as the moor was reached, and the conditions afterwards were ideal, the distant views far into Wales and almost to Sidmouth, and the clearing of the mists in the wooded valleys below, being typical of Exmoor at its best. A careful survey was made of the highest ground in the county, but—with the exception of the abundance of *Empetrum nigrum*—no plants unusual in West Somerset were seen, and a prolonged search for *Lycopodium alpinum* was unsuccessful. If this species still exists on Dunkery, it must be extremely scarce. In 1922 Mr. Thompson observed that none of the numerous plants of mountain ash near the top of Dunkery were more than a foot high. Partly owing to exposed position and partly to comparatively recent burning the flora was scanty, and on the actual moor only twenty-seven species of flowering plants and ferns were noticed, though Dr. Watson records in addition sixty-six species and varieties of cryptogams. Most of the party returned to tea at Dunster, and reached Taunton before seven o'clock. Though the floral notes were not abundant, the careful examination of a typical plant association, the numerous plants observed beside the roads, and the opportunity for discussing botanical matters of interest all made the day worth while, and the summit of Somersetshire in clearing weather affords a scene not easily forgotten.

A field day took place on July 23rd to the west end of the Peat Moor, about a dozen members taking part. Plants observed included *Ranunculus lingua*, *Stellaris palustris*, *Althaea officinalis*, *Lathyrus palustris*, *Apium inundatum*, *Sium latifolium*, *Peucedanum palustre*, *Galium uliginosum* (described by Murray as 'rather rare' in the county), *Utricularia vulgaris*, *Polygonum minus*, *P. mite*, *Lemna trisulca* (in flower), *Wolffia arrhiza*, and a large number of other marsh and rhine



species. An extra-European alien Mugwort, *Artemisia gnaphalodes*, was noticed at Edington Station. Several of the party returned to tea at Highbridge, and a short visit was paid to the banks of the Brue, where *Trifolium maritimum*, *T. fragiferum*, *Bupleurum tenuissimum* and *Statice limonium* were noted. Critical specimens of *Epilobium*, *Polygonum*, *Juncus*, and *Carex flava* (agg.) were carefully examined, and a very pleasant day was enjoyed by those taking part.

The continued wet weather throughout the summer has been greatly against field botany, and the number of notes sent in is much below the average, and though about eighty new stations for comparatively uncommon plants have been added to the card index, no entry of outstanding interest can be chronicled. The above-mentioned alien *Artemisia* from Edington Junction, an alien Chenopod, *Kochia scoparia* Schrad. from Catcott Burtle, and from Burnham a rare casual grass, *Setaria verticillata*, are apparently new to the county, and Mr. F. Langford records from Charterhouse-on-Mendip *Potentilla argentea*, a species which has been noted very rarely and is doubtfully native in the county. A short selection of the more interesting notes is appended.

*Helleborus viridis* L. (3) Copse  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile N.E. of Ashbrittle.

Looking quite native. Col. Watts.

*Althaea hirsuta* L. (5) Mrs. Barnard reports that this species was seen flowering sparingly this year in its recorded station.

*Astragalus odoratus* Lam. (10) The plant observed for many years beside the river at Bath was so named by the Rev. E. Ellman. It flowered and set seed this year and specimens were sent to the British Museum by Mr. Lester-Garland. The identification was confirmed. It is a plant of Asia Minor and Persia.

*Vicia gracilis* Lois. (3) Gotton Quarry. Dr. Watson. (5) Near Fivehead. Col. Watts.

*Caucalis latifolia* L. and *C. daucoides* L. appeared this year on waste ground at Burnham. A plant of the latter was also noticed at West Monkton by Mr. Parry.

*C. arvensis* Huds. (3) Norton Fitzwarren. Mrs. Watson. (5) Fields near Fivehead. W. D. Miller. Fickle in its appearances; frequent this year in several counties.

*Galium ochroleucum* Wolf. (*G. verum*  $\times$  *mollugo*). (9) Charterhouse. F. Langford.

*Erigeron acris* L. (4) Old walls, West Coker. H. Downes. It also appeared on the golf links at Burnham, where it had not been observed for many years.

*Mimulus langsdorffii* Donn. (6) Source of the river Otter, below Otterhead. H. Downes. New for Div. (6).

*Rumex palustris* Sm. (8) Near Bason Bridge. Col. Watts. This is the species named by Messrs. Murray and Marshall *R. limosus* Thuill. Dr. Druce, to whom specimens from here and from Chard Reservoir were sent, states that modern criticism separates the two plants, making *R. palustris* Sm. a true species, and *R. limosus* Thuill. a hybrid between *R. conglomeratus* and *R. maritimus*. See note in *Supp.*, p. 160. Reference to herbaria does not clear up the point, and the London Catalogue makes the two names synonymous.

*Cannabis sativa* L. (5) Garden weed, Castle Cary. H. Slater.

*Cystopteris fragilis* Bernh. (1) In quantity beside the river Barle west of Simonsbath at 1,150 ft., associated with eight other species of ferns. H. S. Thompson. Probably the station indicated by Murray under County Div. (2).

*Lycopodium alpinum* L. (2) This plant was noticed by Mr. Hadden on Chetsford Water, Exmoor, a new station. Further notes as to its occurrence would be welcome.

Early in June a small party of the Botanical Society of the British Isles under Dr. Druce visited Weston-super-Mare, and motored to Cheddar, the Mendips, the Peat Moors and Burnham, seeing practically all the rarities in these localities. It may be worth mentioning that no member of the party gathered a flower, except from abundance, and no root was taken.

The South-Western Naturalists' Union held their annual gathering at Exeter during Whitsuntide, when many interesting papers were read. It cannot be too widely known that a band of able and enthusiastic naturalists, with headquarters at Bristol University, are striving to promote cohesion and reciprocity among workers in the South Western Counties. At present their chief difficulty lies in the diffidence and apathy of those whom they would serve. All who take the smallest interest in any branch of Natural Science are invited to join



the Union without delay. The subscription to members of the Botanical Section is 5s. per annum. The Secretary is Mr. H. Womersley, Sunny Meads, West Town, Somerset.

A notable feature of the present issue of the *Proceedings* is the appearance of the first instalment of Dr. Watson's work on the Lichens of Somerset, which forms an important addition to the bibliography of Somerset botany.

It is suggested for work during the coming season that members—in addition to keeping notes of finds with at least as much diligence as in the past—should also note, whenever possible, the disappearance—actual or threatened—of species from previously recorded stations. Such notes are essential to an up-to-date survey of the County flora, and the study is in itself an instructive one.

Six new members have joined the Section during the past twelve months. The membership is now nominally sixty-eight, but a good many subscriptions are in arrear.

## Microscopical Section

*President*—Colonel J. W. GIFFORD, F.R.A.S., Oaklands, Chard.

*Vice-Presidents*—Mr. JOSEPH CLARK, F.R.M.S., Dr. H. DOWNES, F.L.S.,  
Mr. E. M. NELSON, F.R.M.S., and Dr. W. WATSON.

*Secretary and Treasurer*—Dr. C. R. KILLICK, M.B.

OWING to various reasons the Annual Meeting was the only meeting held.

Dr. Forden unfortunately felt unable, owing to want of time, to remain a Vice-President.

Two members have resigned during the year, making the present membership nineteen.

After the expenses for the year have been paid £2 7s. 4d. remain in the Treasurer's hands. This balance will leave about 30s. available for the purchase of books. If any member wishes to make suggestions for additions to the Library, he should communicate with the Secretary.

Preliminary arrangements have been made for a field day on the Quantocks in the course of the early summer, and it is hoped to arrange it in conjunction with the Botanical Section.

C. R. KILLICK.