

## 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.

*Secretary*—Dr. J. V. BLACHFORD, C.B.E., Milverton, Long Ashton, Bristol.

*Assistant Secretary and Treasurer*—Mr. C. J. PERRENS, 6, Park Rd., Bridgwater.

THE Annual Meeting took place on 14 February 1930, the President in the chair. The President, Treasurer, and Assist.-Treasurer were re-elected, and Dr. J. V. Blachford was appointed Secretary. Mr. and Mrs. H. Slater were asked to act as Recorders.

Two honorary life members of the Section were appointed at this meeting—Mr. Henry Slater and Miss Jermyn.

The Treasurer's accounts were presented and showed a balance in hand of £4 2s. 10d. on 31 December 1929.

The first field meeting was held at Shapwick and Ashcott on May 31. Unfortunately it rained most of the day. A few male *Aurinia* were taken resting and two *Bombyliiformis* on the wing. The second meeting was held at Cothelstone on July 12, when the weather was bright and warm. There was a considerable number of *Aglaia* and *Adippe* on the wing; also a fair quantity of *Tanagra atrata* in very poor condition.

## The Ornithological Section

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

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

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

*Recorders* (revised list, March 1930) :—

*District I*—N. Somerset :—Messrs. B. W. TUCKER and D. D. RICHARDSON.

*District II*—E. Somerset :—Messrs. B. W. TUCKER and D. D. RICHARDSON.

*District III*—Mendip :—Messrs. STANLEY LEWIS and E. GERALD HOLT.

*District IV*—Central Somerset :—The Rev. C. J. PRING and Dr. G. FORDEN.

*District V*—Taunton :—Messrs. B. W. TUCKER and R. EAMES.

*District VI*—S. Somerset :—Mr. J. H. SYMES and Dr. H. B. ELTON.

*District VII*—Exmoor :—Messrs. N. G. HADDEN and E. W. HENDY.

THE Annual Meeting of the Section for 1930 was held in the Wyndham Hall, Taunton Castle, on 17 March, when the President occupied the chair. Thirty-one members attended, as compared with nineteen at the previous annual meeting.

The Treasurer presented the financial statement for 1929, which showed a balance in hand on 31 December of £18 7s. 3d. 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 14s. 6d. set aside as a special reserve fund.

All the Officers of the Section were re-elected, and thanked for their services. The list of Recorders was revised, as given above.

The Sixteenth Report on Somerset Birds (1929), edited by the President assisted by Mr. B. W. Tucker, had recently been published. The latter was mainly responsible for its compilation, as the President stated at the meeting. This was the largest report which had been issued, but only one illustration could be given.

At this meeting a Bird Protection Committee of the Section was formed consisting of Mr. E. W. Hendy (*Chairman*), Mr.

N. G. Hadden, Mrs. Froude Hancock, Mr. Harry Cox and Mr. Gerald Holt.

Mr. Tucker spoke on the subject of a projected Census of Rookeries, Mr. Hadden on the Bird and Tree Scheme of the Royal Society for Protection of Birds, Mr. Hendy on the Destruction of Buzzards in West Somerset, and Mr. Vicars Webb on the Shooting of Protected Birds in the County.

In the afternoon Mr. B. W. Tucker gave a lecture on the Birds of Spitsbergen, illustrated by a fine series of lantern slides, some taken from photographs by Mr. Rankin.

Twenty-eight members attended the autumn meeting on 31 October, when the President was in the chair.

Reference was made to the death of one of the Vice-Presidents, Colonel J. W. Gifford, F.R.A.S., and a vote of condolence with the widow and family having been passed, the members stood in silence. (*See* Obituary notice at the end of this volume.)

At this meeting a Committee was formed to draw up Rules for the Section. The number decided upon was five, and the following were appointed:—The President, the Secretary, and Messrs. E. W. Hendy, W. D. Miller and B. W. Tucker.

Mr. Tucker read a report drawn up by the sub-Committee appointed to consider the condition and exhibition of the British and Foreign Birds in the Society's Museum. The report was adopted by the meeting, and the following were elected a Committee to carry the matter further:—The President, the Secretary, Mr. B. W. Tucker, the Rev. C. J. Pring and Dr. R. L. Meade-King.

In the afternoon the Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain, an honorary member of the Section, gave a lecture entitled 'Field Notes on the Bird Life of the Balearic Isles and Cyprus', which was well illustrated by lantern slides, some of which were made by the Rev. C. J. Pring from the lecturer's photographs.

The additions to the bird collections for the year ended 22 July 1930 are listed on p. lxxxix of this volume. Books on ornithology recently added to the library are given in 'Additions to the Library'; and a complete list of the Society's ornithological books will be published in the 'Report on Somerset Birds' for 1930.

H. ST. GEORGE GRAY.

From the point of view of field observation on birds in the county the year 1930 has been a fair average one. The Report contains a number of items of great interest. Reference may be made to the nesting of Crossbill, Garganey, and Spotted Crake, and to the increase of the Tufted Duck as a breeding species.

The intensive study of individual species, the importance of which is being increasingly recognized, is making fair progress in Somerset. Part I of Mr. B. W. Tucker's paper on the Heron in Somerset appeared during the year, in vol. lxxv of the *Proceedings*, and Part II is published in the present volume. In the winter 1930-31 the same observer launched a census of Rookeries in the county, in which members of the Section are assisting, and which it is hoped to complete in 1932. Active assistance is also being given by several members in connexion with the Census of the Great Crested Grebe in Great Britain being organized by Messrs. Harrisson and Hollom.

A selection of the more important records for 1930 is given below. In a good many cases fuller details will be found in the separate Report issued by the Section.

CHOUGH, *Pyrhcorax pyrrhcorax* (L.)

A bird which can only have been a Chough was reported near Stratton-on-the-Fosse in January (*C.R.S.*)

HAWFINCH, *Coccothraustes c. coccothraustes* (L.)

Reported from several localities. Seen repeatedly in Leigh Woods in winter and spring, and a party of five, Backwell Hill, Mar. 2 (*V.C.W-E.*). Three at Chantry, Jan. 30, and six, Feb. 13; one, Mells, Mar. 9 (*C.R.S.*). Pair, Wells, April (*D. C. Urquhart*).

CROSSBILL, *Loxia c. curvirostra* L.

Bred at Bindon, Wellington, where nest was kept under observation by J.H.L., and almost certainly in Ashton Park, near Bristol, where birds were observed in the act of pairing, though no nest was located (*A.C.L. & W.R.T.*). Also very probably at Winscombe (*D.B.G.*), Wiveliscombe (*V.F.H.*) and another West Somerset locality. Details are given in the separate Report.

Also reported during the year at Hunstrete (*H.L.P.*), Cheddar (*V.C.W-E. & S.L.*), Lympsham, and Porlock (single bird) (*N.G.H.*)

SNOW-BUNTING, *Plectrophenax n. nivalis* (L.)

Several records from the coast. Two, Berrow, Feb. 7 (*E.G.H.*). One, Brean Down, Nov. 17 (*H.C.*). Five (cock and four hens), Berrow, Dec. 18 (*B.W.T.*). Three, same place, Dec. 25 (*E.G.H.*)

WILLOW-TIT, *Parus atricapillus kleinschmidti* Hellm.

Definitely identified on the hills w. of Bristol, towards Cadbury Camp, on Apr. 15, 1927, by Mr. H. G. Alexander, who has paid special attention to this species. The first fully authenticated record for Somerset, where the species must be very local if not actually rare.

PIED FLYCATCHER, *Muscicapa h. hypoleuca* (Pall.)

Several records of birds on passage. Male, Goblin Combe, Apr. 24 (*I.F.A.* & *E.F.W.*). Male, Winscombe, Apr. 26 (*D.B.G.*). Female, Burnham, Sept. 8 (*E.G.H.*). One also reported at Loxton in June.

CHIFFCHAFF, *Phylloscopus c. collybita* (Vieill.)

One in song at Cossington, Feb. 14, evidently a wintering bird, as was also perhaps one at Burnham, Mar. 9 (*E.G.H.*).

MARSH-WARBLER, *Acrocephalus palustris* (Bechst.)

Breeding in a new locality in District VI (*C.J.P.*)

BLACKCAP, *Sylvia a. atricapilla* (L.)

Cases of wintering are recorded from Glastonbury, Feb. 1929 (*A.G.D.*), and West Porlock, winter 1929-30, from Feb. 2 onwards (*N.G.H.*)

GREENLAND WHEATEAR, *Ænanthe α. leucorrhœa* (L.)

Examples of this race definitely identified on the spring and autumn passages in N. Somerset by V.C.W-E. Three, near Kingston Seymour, certainly identified, May 10. At least twenty, Portishead, May 14. One (probable), Ashton Park, May 17. Last seen first week of June. About ten, Portbury Wharf, Aug. 16; Ashton Park, Aug. 17.

BLACK REDSTART, *Phœnicurus ochrurus gibraltariensis* (Gm.)

Several records. A pair stated to have become 'regular winter visitors' at Blagdon (*D. Carr—Report Wells Nat. Hist. & Archaeol. Soc.* for 1929). One, Banwell Castle, Nov. 14 (*E.G.H.*). One on shore near Dunster, Dec. 12 (*E.W.H.*)

HOOPOE, *Upupa e. epops* L.

One on Ivythorn Hill, near Street, for several weeks in April

and May (*E.P.*). Seen in two gardens at Kingston, near Taunton, in 1930. One reported near Woodspring about Sept. 19 (*E.G.H.*)

SNOWY OWL, *Nyctea nyctea* (L.)

One seen on Haddon Hill, Jan. 18 (*Geoffrina Churchill—Brit. Birds*, xxiii, p. 274).

PEREGRINE, *Falco p. peregrinus* Tunst.

Again bred in the Avon Gorge and in an inland locality in the Brendon district, in addition to the eyries on the coast.

BUZZARD, *Buteo b. buteo* (L.)

Reported at several localities outside its West Somerset stronghold: One, Brean Down, Mar. 6 (*H.C.*); one, Mells, Mar. 16 (*C.R.S.*); one, Blagdon, Apr. 8 (*A.C.L. & W.R.T.*), a pair in District VI (*H.B.E.*)

Also increasing markedly, Wiveliscombe (*V.F.H.*) and probably on Quantocks, where five seen on the wing together at Cothelstone, Aug. 29 (*Rev. J. D. Gedge*).

MONTAGU'S HARRIER, *Circus pygargus* (L.)

A party of five (two males and three females) seen on May 25 flying over Porlock Marsh (*N.G.H. & L. H. Perkins*).

GARGANEY, *Anas querquedula* L.

A nest of eleven eggs found on the Somerset moors, May 20 (*P. M. Meeson—Brit. Birds*, xxiv, p. 54). One drake on the Peat Moors, May 8 (*E.G.H.*)

PINTAIL, *Anas a. acuta* L.

An exceptionally large number (not less than fifty) on the coast at Steart Point, Apr. 7 (*L.A.H. & W.R.T.*)

SHOVELER, *Spatula clypeata* (L.)

A very unusual gathering of not less than sixty to seventy birds of both sexes on the coast at Steart Point, Apr. 7 (*L.A.H. & W.R.T.*)

TUFTED DUCK, *Nyroca fuligula* (L.)

An increase at the Somerset breeding-station of this species, where it is now evidently well established. Several nests examined (*L.A.H., C.R.S., W.R.T. & others*).

COMMON SCOTER, *Oidemia n. nigra* (L.)

Three (two drakes and one duck) at Barrow, Apr. 5 (*A.C.L., H.T. & W.R.T.*). Pair, Blagdon, Apr. 8 (*F.L.B., A.C.L., W.R.T.*)

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER, *Mergus serrator* L.

One, Porlock Marsh, Feb. 1 (*E.W.H.*)

SMEW, *Mergus albellus* L.

One in white plumage reported near Dunster in November by G. F. Luttrell (*E.W.H.*)

GANNET, *Sula bassana* (L.)

A dead adult washed ashore near Porlock Weir, Nov. 1 (*N.G.H.*)

MANX SHEARWATER, *Puffinus p. puffinus* (Brünn.)

Flock of about thirty in the Channel off Flat Holm, July 29.

One picked up dead, Gore Sands, Sept. 25 (*E.G.H.*)

BLACK-NECKED GREBE, *Podiceps n. nigricollis* Brehm

A pair and an odd bird remained on Blagdon Reservoir for over a month in the spring. They were first seen on Mar. 1 and last on Apr. 5, when the presumed male of the pair was in practically full plumage and the others a little less advanced (*C.R.S.*). One observed on Barrow Reservoirs between Mar. 6 and Apr. 5 (*A.C.L.*, *W.R.T.* & *H.T.*); one, Sept. 18 and Dec. 20 (*W.R.T.*)

STONE-CURLEW, *Burhinus  $\alpha$ . oedicnemus* (L.)

One shot at Lyng about Feb. 20 (*L. Barrington Simeon*).

[DOTTEREL, *Charadrius morinellus* L.

Two reported on Exmoor by E. C. Lloyd on Nov. 20 and another occasion prior to Nov. 17 (*E.W.H.*)]

SANDERLING, *Crocethia alba* (Pall.)

Three at Barrow Reservoirs, Sept. 17 and 18 (*A.C.L.* & *W.R.T.*)

GREY PHALAROPE, *Phalaropus fulicarius* (L.)

A small immigration took place in September, following gales. One picked up dead under telegraph wires between Ilchester and Langport, Sept. 20 (*H.T.*, *Brit. Birds*, xxiv, p. 226). Four on Berrow saltings, Sept. 21; three, Sept. 25; one, Sept. 28 (*E.G.H.*). One, Porlock Marsh, Sept. 22-24 (*E.W.H.* & *N.G.H.*). One arrived, Litton Reservoir, Sept. 25, and stayed for some time (*A. Tyte*).

LITTLE TERN, *Sterna a. albifrons* Pall.

One, Blagdon Reservoir, May 9 (*C.R.S.*). Evidently only one pair on Steart (*E.G.H.* & *H.C.*)

[? RICHARDSON'S] SKUA, *Stercorarius* [? *parasiticus* (L.)]

A Skua, probably this, chasing Black-headed Gulls on the Gore during gale, Sept. 21 (*E.G.H.*)

SPOTTED CRAKE, *Porzana porzana* (L.)

Two nests found on May 20 in a Somerset marsh (*P. M. Meeson—Brit. Birds*, xxiv, p. 56). Details of this astonishing experience are given in *British Birds* and are quoted in the separate Report of the Section. Apparently the first authentic record of breeding in the county.

The contributors of the foregoing notes can be identified from the following list :—

Miss I. F. Ashby; Rev. F. L. Blathwayt; H. Cox; Mrs. A. G. Dowell; Dr. H. B. Elton; Mrs. V. Froude Hancock; D. B. Grubb; N. G. Hadden; L. A. Hawkins; E. W. Hendy; E. G. Holt; A. C. Leach; Col. J. H. Leigh; S. Lewis; E. Page; H. L. Popham; Rev. C. J. Pring; C. R. Stonor; W. R. Taylor; H. Tetley; B. W. Tucker; Miss E. F. Watkins; V. C. Wynne-Edwards.

B. W. TUCKER.



## The Botanical Section

*President*—W. WATSON, D.SC., A.L.S.

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

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

THE Annual General Meeting was held at the Castle, Taunton, on 19 March 1930, Dr. Watson, President, in the chair. After the minutes of the last meeting had been passed as correct, the accounts were accepted, showing a balance in hand of £5 16s. 5d. It was decided to subscribe 10s. to the Sharpham Moor Plot, to place £3 to the credit of the deposit account, and to purchase Wheldon and Wilson's *Flora of West Lancashire*. Dr. Downes presented to the library Col. Wolley-Dod's monograph on *British Roses*. The Committee's report for 1929 was unanimously accepted, with thanks to the Secretary for its preparation. Dr. Watson again pleaded for simplification of nomenclature, but the meeting was opposed to the substitution of English for Latin names for plants. Arrangements for field days were left to the President and Secretary, and Burnham, Bossington and Stourton were places suggested. Mr. Miller mentioned the loss to the Section by the death of Dr. F. A. Bruton, and Mr. Thompson briefly referred to the late C. E. Salmon. The position of the South-Western Naturalists' Union, the renewed activities of Devon botanists, the International Botanical Congress at Cambridge, and the visit of the British Association to Bristol were among topics mentioned. Mr. Thompson asked for the assistance of members in the phenological work which is carried on at the instigation of the Royal Meteorological Society. Several members brought exhibits of interesting plants both fresh and dried, including Miss Roper's beautiful sheets of our three English Crocuses. The meeting was the best attended and one of the most interesting yet held.

On 19 June a small party met at Highbridge, and walked by the River Brue to Burnham, thence along the shore to the Gore Flats, and back to Burnham by the golf links. Tea was provided at the Secretary's house, and much interest was taken in a small rockery, where about forty uncommon British plants were in evidence. A large number of species were seen during the walk, including *Orchis hircina* and *Sisyrinchium angustifolium*. Mr. Thompson noticed on the links several plants of *Juncus tenuis*, previously only recorded from the north of the County. A quantity of *Festuca bromoides* was seen in one place on the railway siding, and *Rumex maritimus*, *Orobanche minor* and *Erigeron canadensis* were other plants noticed.

The field day on 3 July was at Ashcott Station, when twenty-one members and friends spent several hours examining the flora of the enclosures adjoining the station on the north side of the railway. As was to be expected, no remarkable finds were recorded, but characteristic features of the peat-bog association were well represented, and the party enjoyed the identification of a large number of species, not wholly uncritical. A cool breeze with sun and shadow and a clear air were ideal for the district, and the afternoon was much enjoyed by all. Among plants noticed the following may be worthy of mention, *Wahlenbergia hederacea*, *Juncus obtusiflorus*, *Carex Pseudo-Cyperus*, and *Osmunda regalis*.

In stormy weather on 29 July a very small party travelled to Bossington, near Porlock. The district is not rich botanically, but a few rarities are present, and the old thatched cottages, covered with creepers and shadowed by fine walnut and other trees are well worth a visit. Some of the plants of the shingle ridge and Porlock marsh are of interest. The flora includes a variety of mints (among which are *rotundifolia*, *sativa*, *arvensis* and *spicata*), *Dipsacus pilosus*, *Artemisia Absinthium*, *Leonurus Cardiaca*, now becoming extremely scarce, as it is elsewhere, *Verbascum Lychnitis*, and its hybrid with *Thapsus*, *Ruppia* on the marsh, and on the shingle *Lathyrus sylvestris*, *Ranunculus sardous*, and a characteristic form of *Geranium Robertianum* which Dr. Watson states is not *purpureum* nor *modestum*, as had been suggested previously.

Despite particularly favourable conditions throughout the

summer, notes sent in have been scanty, members apparently being very reluctant to record their observations. Perhaps the subjoined items may be of interest :

*Epilobium lanceolatum* Seb. & Maur. (8) Highbridge station siding. *H. S. Thompson* (teste *E. Drabble*).

*E. Lamyi* F. Schultz. (8) Tadhams Moor. *G. Watts* ; new for (8).

*Sambucus nigra* L. With green fruit. (3) Roadside above Blagdon. *W. Watson*.

*Juncus tenuis* Willd. (8) Burnham links. *H. S. Thompson* ; new for (8).

*Carex strigosa* Huds. (3) Wood near Milverton. *Lady Davy*.

*C. extensa* Good. (9) Reappeared on Gore Sands, Berrow. *W. D. Miller*.

*Gastridium lendigerum* Gaud. (9) Purn Hill. *W. D. Miller* ; new for (9).

*Bromus racemosus* L. (2) Blue Anchor. *W. Watson* ; new for (2).

*B. arvensis* L. (3) Lyngford, Taunton. *W. Watson* ; new for (3).

*Cystopteris fragilis* Bernh. (2) Garden, West Porlock. With black rachis. *N. G. Hadden*.

*Lycopodium clavatum* L. (2) Ramscombe, Quantock. *E. J. Hamlin*. The presence of this plant on the Quantocks does not appear to have been previously recorded.

*Chenopodium capitatum* Asch. (3) Cothelstone. *J. D. Gedge*. This interesting alien, identified at Kew, is casual in northern Europe. It appears to be thoroughly established about the Vicarage.

Among cryptogams Dr. Watson sends the following, most of which are new vice-county records. The figures refer to the vice-counties of Watson's *Topographical Botany*.

#### MOSSES

*Dicranum fuscescens* Turn. (5) Dunkery Beacon. (*E. C. Wallace*).

*Trichostomum nitidum* Schpr. (5) Minehead. (*E. C. Wallace*).

#### HEPATICES

*Marchancia polymorpha* f. *aquatica* Nees. (6) Shapwick.

*Cephalozia hampeana* Schiff. (6) Shapwick.

## LICHENS

- Biotora viridescens* Mann. (5) On base of firs, Blackdowns.  
*Biatorina spodiza* A.L.Sm. (5) On firs above Greenaleigh Farm.  
Only one locality previously.  
*Biatorina subviridis* A.L.Sm. (5) Minehead.  
*Dermatocarpon hepaticum* Th.Fr. (5) Volis Hill, Kingston.

## FUNGI

- Crucibulum vulgare* Tul. (6) Wrington Warren.  
*Inocybe geophila* var. *lilacina* Fr. (6) Goblin Combe.  
*Clavaria dissipabilis* Britzl. (5) Taunton.

Apart from this Section, the year has been one of great botanical activity. By the courtesy of the Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club the S. W. Naturalists' Union, to which this Section is affiliated, held their annual meeting at Gloucester in the middle of June, Dr. and Mrs. Watson and Miss Roper being our only members to take part in the interesting discussions and expeditions.

The International Botanical Congress was held at Cambridge, 17-23 August, and was attended by over a thousand botanists from all parts of the world. An account is given in the *Journal of Botany* for October 1930. (This periodical, to which the Section subscribes, can always be seen by members in the library at Taunton Castle.)

There followed in early September the meeting of the British Association at Bristol. Miss Roper acted as local secretary for the Association's Botanical Section, of which over a hundred members were present, and Mr. Thompson led two of the three excursions to Somerset localities. The first was an afternoon walk up Brockley Combe, and over Wrington Warren to Goblin Combe. It was too late in the season for many flowers, but the limestone polypody was abundant among the screes of Goblin Combe, and the interesting trees and shrubs in the two limestone woods were an attraction to the ecologists. A whole day excursion to the Mendips and the peat moors at Shapwick was a great success and took place in beautiful weather. Many of the large party saw the Somerset rarities for the first time. On

Shapwick Moor Miss Roper pointed out the micro-fungus *Puccinia bullata* Wint. on the leaves of *Peucedanum palustre*. She finds the only known record for this rust is given in W. B. Grove: 'The British Rust Fungi', 1913, as 'Shrapwick Bay, Somerset, 1883, H. B. Waterfall.' This is obviously the same locality (Shapwick Bog), but Waterfall's initials were W. B. He was a Bristol botanist, who died a few years ago. Among moorland plants noticed by the party were *Utricularia vulgaris*, *Wahlenbergia hederacea*, *Osmunda regalis*, *Lastraea Thelypteris*, *Radiola millegrana* and many sedges. Tea was taken at Glas-tonbury, when a cordial vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Thompson and Miss Roper for their arduous duties so successfully performed.

A third expedition to the Portbury marshes was led by Dr. Rose Bracher, of the University of Bristol, who has done intensive work on the vegetation of the salt marsh and of the mud of the Avon banks. Mr. Thompson notes that the *Salicorniae* of the Portbury district have been greatly reduced during the last decade.

While on the subject of botanical activity, it should be mentioned that the Botanical Section of the Devon Association has set about the preparation of the much-needed *Flora of Devon*, under Miss C. E. Larter, F.L.S., as editor-in-chief.

The following papers are of interest to Somerset botanists. Dr. Watson's 'Lichenological Notes, V' in the September number of the *Journal of Botany*, and the same author's 'The Classification of Lichens', published in the *New Phytologist*, and reviewed in the October number of the *J. of B.*: Mr. Thompson's 'Further changes in the coast Vegetation near Berrow, Somerset', contributed to the *Journal of Ecology*, February 1930, and the late C. E. Salmon's 'Notes on *Sorbus*' (*Journ. Bot.*, June 1930) which contains many references to Somerset records.

A publication which should appeal to a wide public is 'Further Illustrations of British Plants', by R. W. Butcher, B.Sc., and Florence E. Strudwick, M.A. (L. Reeve & Co. 12s. net). This book contains illustrations of 485 species, very well drawn and reproduced, together with details, mostly magnified, and short descriptions at the foot of each page. Though the plants

selected are subsidiary to Bentham's list, the book is a most usable one, and a great help to the study of closely allied species.

During the autumn Mr. Thompson, with the approval of his Committee, has effected considerable clearance of scrub growth and *Molinia* grass in the front portion of the Sharpham Moor Plot. It will be remembered that this plot is a piece of ground about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres in extent, situated on the peat moor between Ashcott station and Glastonbury. It is roughly rectangular and surrounded by rhines, and some of it remains in almost primeval state. It was purchased by private subscription in 1923, and vested in the Society for the Promotion of Nature Reserves, the hope being that its varied and remarkable flora may be preserved *in perpetuo*. The Section subscribes 10s. annually to the expenses of its upkeep.

Normal climatic conditions prevailed for the most part of the year, but the mildness of January and of the autumn up to the frost of mid-November resulted in a few early and late phenological records. Celandine and Herb Bennet were seen in flower at Taunton on 30 January, and Cowslip at Burnham on 14 February, while Dr. Watson recorded 131 plants in blossom during November, among the more remarkable of which were *Ranunculus Flammula*, *Papaver Rhæas*, *Viola sylvestris*, *Arenaria trinervia*, *Rosa arvensis* and *Lamium Galeobdolon*.

There are at present fifty-three members of the Section. The Committee would urge upon all the importance of starting from the beginning of the year to keep notes of all observations in the field, and of communicating such notes to the Secretary from time to time. The Secretary would especially be glad to receive fresh specimens of any but the commonest Willow Herbs for examination and record.