The Entomological Section.

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 Committee appointed for that purpose by the annual meeting at Taunton Castle on February 24th, 1922, have considered carefully the suggestion from the Bristol Naturalists' Society that a South-Western Naturalists' Union for the South-Western Counties should be formed on the plan of similar unions which have been an undoubted success in other parts of Britain. The Committee has taken a share in developing this project, and has decided that it will be of considerable benefit to our Section to join it, and have accordingly undertaken to do so. Private membership of the Union, however, will be required in addition by all members of our Section who wish to obtain the publications of the Union, which will probably be of considerable value to all working naturalists. This membership will cost 5*s*. per annum, and our members are advised to send in their names as members of the Union as soon as possible.

The Recorders think it advisable to let the Section know how they have divided their sphere of work, in order that members may know to which of them they ought to send their particular records and experiences in future.

COLONEL JERMYN.

Ephemeridæ (Mayflies, etc.).
Plecoptera (Stoneflies, etc.).
Orthoptera (Grasshoppers, etc.).
Dermaptera (Earwigs, etc.).
Strepsiptera (Stylops).
Hemiptera (Bugs, etc.).
Homoptera (Cicadas, Aphids, etc.).
Neuroptera (Lacewings, etc.).
Trichoptera (Caddis flies, etc.).
Mecoptera (Scorpion flies).
Diptera (two-winged flies).
Hymenoptera (Bees and Wasps), except Ichneumonidea.

H. SLATER.

Collembola (Spring-tails, etc.).
Thysanura (" Silver fish," etc.).
Odontata (Dragon flies).
Coleoptera (Beetles).
Corrodentia (Psocidæ, etc.).
Anoplura = Mallophaga (Bird-lice).
Thysanoptera (Thrips, etc.).
Lepidoptera (Butterflies and moths).
Siphonaptera (Fleas).
Ichneumonidea (Ichneumons).

LEPIDOPTERA.

Prodenia littoralis, Boisd. A ♀ larva was taken at Brockley Combe by Mr. Chas. Bartlett on June 5th, 1897. It hatched out on Aug. 3rd, 1897, and was sent to Mr. South, who identified it as above. It is a native of S.E. Europe, S. Asia, and Madagascar. See *Entomologist*, XXI, 45. This is its first occurrence in Britain. A casual stranger, of course, and not a permanent addition to the British fauna, but its record in the county is nevertheless necessary.

Vanessa C-album, L., has been more than usually abundant this year. The spring brood occurred in some numbers at Batcombe, and we saw one here (Cannington) in the garden (26.v.22). As a sequel Mr. G. B. Coney saw a good many of the autumn brood at Batcombe, and a good many other instances have been reported. Mr. Kenneth J. Hayward took a fine specimen of the aberration " f-album " (see Seitz., *Macrol. of the World*, Div. I, Palæarctic Fauna, vol. I, and fig.) at Bruton.

Colias edusa, Fb., has been quite plentiful, following the usual prognostic—the appearance of females in May, of which several were taken in Somerset. Several of *var.* ♀ *helice*, Hb., have been taken in the autumn, and Capt. Troup has been trying to breed the variety from eggs laid by a *helice* ♀, and has succeeded in obtaining several forms of much interest.

Mr. A. R. Hayward has done some fine work amongst the Microlepidoptera and has obtained the following records, all taken within five miles of Crewkerne.

GRAPHOLITHIIDÆ.

Phoxopteryx comptana, Fröl. Haselbury Park (2½ m. N.E. of Crewkerne), 29.v.21.

P. diminutana, Haw. Haselbury Pk., 23.vi.22.
Coccyx pygmaeana, Hb. Haselbury Pk., 28.iv.21.
Catoptria hypericana, Hb. Creech Hill, Bruton, 9.vii.20, and Haselbury Pk., 28.vi.21.

PYRALOÏDIDÆ.

Choreutes bjerkandrella, Thnb. Haselbury Pk., 13.viii.22.

TINEÆ.

TINEIDÆ.

Tinea misella, Zell. Turf Moor, 18.vii.20.
Micropteryx mansuetella, Zell. Haselbury Pk., 9.v.20.

ADELIDÆ.

Nematois minimellus, Zell. Turf Moor, 7.viii.22.

GELECHIIDÆ.

Depressaria subpropinquella, Sta. Polden Hills, 7.viii.22.
Gelechia nigra, Haw. Haselbury Pk., 20.vii.19.
Bryotropha politella, Doug. Misterton, 6.viii.20.
Lita costella, Westw. Misterton, 12.vi.20.
Teleia humeralis, Zell. Haselbury Pk., 18.iv.20.
Ergatis ericinella, Dup. Turf Moor, 7.viii.22.
Monochroa tenebrella, Hb. Turf Moor, 13.vi.20.

ARGYRESTHIIDÆ.

Zelleria hepariella, Mann. Haselbury Pk., 8.viii.20.

GRACILLARIIDÆ.

Coriscium sulphurellum, Haw. Haselbury Pk., 8.viii.20.

COLEOPHORIDÆ.

Coleophora orbitella, Zell. Turf Moor, 13.vi.20.

ELACHISTIDÆ.

Elachista nigrella, Hb. Misterton, 5.v.21.
E. rhyncosporella, Sta. Turf Moor, 18.vii.20.

LYONETIIDÆ.

Opostega saliciella, Tr. Haselbury Pk., 28.vi.21.

NEPTICULIDÆ.

Bohemannia quadrimaculella, Bohem. Misterton, 24.viii.20.

Note. The exact locality and date for *Ornix finitimella*, taken by Mr. A. R. Hayward (see my report for 1921) is "Misterton, 12.vii.20."

A few records of my own, and of the Rev. S. O. Ridley, both

of which have been identified by Messrs. Guy N. Mason of Barton-on-Humber and E. A. Atmore of King's Lynn.

Tortrices.

Penthina caprœana, Hb. Ashcott (Turf Moor), 25.vi.19.
Grapholitha geminana, St. Cothelstone (Quantocks), 29.vii.19.
Pœdisca rubiginosana, H.-Sch. (=*Mixodia bouchardiana*, Dbld.). Four examples, Cothelstone, 29.vii.19.

Tineæ.

Anesychia funerella, Fb. Cheddar Wood, 31.vi.17. On *Lithospermum purpuro-coeruleum*. Two examples.
Argyresthia semitestacella, Brockley Combe, 5.viii.15.
Stathmopoda pedella, L. Benhole, Stogursey, 6.vii.15.
By Rev. S. O. Ridley in 1915, probably on Mendips,
Nemophora pilella, Fb.
Elachistæ luticomella, Zell.

It is an infinite pity that some of our younger lepidopterists (for they need fairly young eyes) do not take up the Micros, instead of doing again, and yet again, what has already been done thoroughly—the Macros. There is plenty of good work, and plenty of records to be made, in the Microlepidoptera.

We have a good many records in the *Mallophaga*, or Bird-lice, ready for publication ; at present not a single species is on record. Also a good start has been made with the *Siphonaptera*, or fleas, of which about half-a-dozen are on record. We want more collectors of these, especially amongst the bird, bat and small mammal fleas. See my appeals in 1919–20.

A few records amongst the Coccid group of the Hemiptera, the first in the group.

Coccids.

Ripersia subterranea. In nests of the common ant, *Lasius flavus*, D.G., at Cadbury Camp, Tickenham, in 1922, by Mr. Herbert Womersley, determined by Mr. Donisthorpe.
Ripersia formicarii. In nests of *Lasius flavus*, and *Lasius alienus* at Porlock by Mr. W. C. Crawley, F.E.S., in 1915–6.

Ortheziola vejdovskii. In nests of *Lasius flavus* and *Lasius alienus*, by Mr. Crawley, also at Porlock.

Chermes Cooleyi. On the Douglas fir (*Abies douglasii*) at Hamp House, Bridgwater, 1921–2, by the present writer. This is a comparatively new British plague, said to threaten that fine Conifer, which was becoming a very useful British timber tree.

Colonel Jermyn, F.E.S., sends me a first instalment of the *Trichoptera* or Caddis Flies (which, as will be seen, are overdue), and which I transcribe literally.

" No Caddis flies are recorded in the list of Somerset insects in the *Victoria County History*, nor have I been able to find any records elsewhere. Mr. M. E. Moseley, F.E.S., who has kindly undertaken to act as our referee for this Order has identified the insects in the following list, taken by the Rev. S. O. Ridley, Mr. H. Slater and myself, and has added some further records. The Trichoptera are mainly to be found near water, resting by day amongst herbage, from which many may be swept, and flying in the late afternoon and evening. Many are nocturnal. Some species affect woods and gardens (apparently at a considerable distance from water) and many come to light, some of which may be found on walls in houses. They are economically important as fish food, and Mr. Moseley informs me that, owing to mistakes being often made in trying to introduce species to unsuitable localities, it is desirable that records should show as far as possible, the names of lakes, rivers, etc., near which they are taken, and whether they are taken near running or still (s) water. The British species number about 180.

Miss E. M. Lee is now taking up this order. Will members therefore kindly send any specimens met with to her address at The Grange, Street, Somerset ?

LIMNOPHILIDÆ.

Colpotaulius incisus, Curt. W.-s.-M., 18.vii.14.

Glyphotaelius pellucidus, Retz. Max Mill, 30.v.16 (H.S.). Shapwick(s), 5.viii.16. Ashcott(s), 31.v.17.

Limnophilus lunatus, Curt. Cannington, 15.ix.17 (H.S.).

Limnophilus centralis, Curt. Stourton Wood, 5.vi.14.
Limnophilus affinis, Curt. Woods and gardens, common, June-Sept.
Limnophilus auricula, Curt. June—Sept. Generally distributed.
Limnophilus sparsus, Curt. Crook's Peak, 30.v.16 (S.O.R.) and Seven Wells Combe, 21.xi.16 (H.S.).
Stenophylax permistus, McLach. Brockley Combe, 13.vii.15. W.-s.-M., March to May.
Stenophylax stellatus, Curt. Cheddar, 1.iv.14 ; Exe R. Exford, 18.viii.22.
Halesus radiatus, Curt. Seven Wells Combe, Quantocks, 21.ix.16 (H.S.).
Halesus guttatipennis, McLach. Crook's Peak, 28.xi.13 (S.O.R.).
Ecclisopteryx guttulata, Pict. Barle R., Withypool, June, 1921 (M.E.M.).

SERICOSTOMATIDÆ.

Sericostoma personatum, Spence. Max. Mill, 9.vii.16.
Silo pallipes, Fab. Barle R., Withypool, June, 1921 (M.E.M.).
Goëra pilosa, Fab. Barle R., Withypool, June, 1921 (M.E.M.).
Lepidostoma hirtum, Fab. Haddeo R., Dulverton, 14.vii.14.

LEPTOCERIDÆ.

Odontocerum albicorne, Scop. Cannington Brook, 18.ix.15 (H.S.) ; Barle R., Withypool, June, 1921 (M.E.M.) ; Washford R., 27.vii.16.
Beraea maura, Steph. Barle R., Withypool, June, 1921 (M.E.M.).
Leptocerus aterrimus, Steph. Sedgmoor, 16.vii.14.
Leptocerus albifrons, L. Haddeo R., Dulverton, 14.vii.14.
Leptocerus dissimilis, Steph. Crook's Peak, 10.viii.14 (S.O.R.).
Mystacides azurea, L. Haddeo R., Dulverton, 14.vii.14.
Mystacides dissimilis, Steph. Crook's Peak, 10.viii.14 (S.O.R.).
Triaenodes bicolor, Curt. Max Mill, 9.vii.14.
Oecetis lacustris, Pict. Crook's Peak, 28.vii.16 (S.O.R.).
Setodes argentipunctella, McLach. Sedgmoor, 16.vii.14.
Setodes punctata, Fab. Sedgmoor, 16.vii.14.

HYDROPSYCHIDÆ.

Hydropsyche pellucidula, Curt. Barle R., Withypool, June, 1921 (M.E.M.).
Hydropsyche instabilis, Curt. Cannington Brook, 28.v.14 (H.S.).
Hydropsyche lepida, Pict. Barle R., Withypool, June, 1921 (M.E.M.).
Diplectrona felix, McLach. Stourton Wood, 1.vi.14.
Philopotamus montanus, Don. Barle R., Withypool, 20.viii.22.
Wormaldia occipitalis, Pict. Stourton Wood, 1.vi.14 ; Haddeo R., Dulverton, 14.vii.14.
Holocentropus stagnalis, Albarda. Shapwick(s), 30.iv.15.
Psychomyia pusilla, Fab. Cannington Brook, 1.viii.14 (H.S.).

RHYACOPHILIDÆ.

Rhyacophila dorsalis, Curt. Seven Wells Combe, 21.ix.16 (H.S.) ; Barle R., Withypool, June, 1921 (M.E.M.) ; Washford R., 27.vii.16.
Glossocoma vernale, Pict. Barle R., Withypool (M.E.M.).
Agapetus comatus, Pict. Barle R., Withypool (M.E.M.).
Agapetus fuscipes, Curt. Cannington Brook, 25.vi.14.

HYDROPTILIDÆ.

Oxyethira frici, Klap. Barle R., Withypool, June, 1921 (M.E.M.).

HYMENOPTERA.

The following Andrenidæ, kindly identified by Dr. R. C. L. Perkins, F.R.S., have not been previously recorded from the county.

Sphecodes scabricollis, Wesm. ♀ Shapwick, 8.viii.19. A rare insect. The specimen is described by Dr. Perkins in *E.M.M.*, April, 1922.
Halictus lativentris, Schk. W.-s.-M., 20.iv.20.
Halictus zonulus, Sm. W.-s.-M., Shapwick, etc., June, July and August.
Halictus fulvicornis, Kirby. Flax Bourton, 22.v.20."

HENRY SLATER.

The Ornithological Section.

President and Recorder—The Rev. F. L. BLATHWAYT, M.B.O.U., 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 1922 Annual Meeting of the Section was held at the Somerset County Museum on March 21st, when the Rev. F. L. Blathwayt, President, occupied the chair.

The Treasurer presented the financial statement for 1921, which showed a balance in hand on December 31st of £14 0*s*. 11*d*. There was also on deposit at the bank the sum of £26 4*s*. 8*d*. set aside as the Somerset Egg Cabinet Fund.

The Eighth Report on Somerset Birds (1921), edited by the President, was sent out to the members of the Section in March, 1922. It consisted of twenty-one folios, typewritten, and was the longest report having reference to a single year. A small stock of these reports is kept in hand and may be purchased by new members of the Section. It was decided that when records were available, a section of the annual report should be devoted to mammals, fish and reptiles.

The officers of the Section were re-elected at the March meeting ; and Mr. B. W. Tucker (Chewton Mendip, Bath) was elected an additional Recorder for the East and N.E. division of the County. (The names and addresses of the other Recorders will be found in *Proceedings*, LXVII, p. lxvii).

In spite of a few resignations and the loss by death of Mr. F. H. Cheetham, the Section at the present time (January, 1923) consists of seventy-one members, an increase of ten during the last two years.

The Section continues to subscribe to *British Birds*, which are bound as the volumes become completed. During the year the " Geographical Bibliography of British Ornithology," by Messrs. W. H. Mullens, H. Kirke Swann and F. Jourdain, has been purchased.

Mr. R. Vernon has presented to the Museum a stuffed Smew,

adult drake, which was shot on the duck pond at Orchard Portman on January 31st.

It was thought desirable that a series of common Eggs should be arranged in the Museum for the information of children who would not be allowed to use the locked cabinets.

At the March meeting and at that held on September 19th, a good number of duplicate eggs belonging to the Wiglesworth Collection were sold to members, the money being placed to the credit of the Section's Egg Cabinet Fund.

At the September meeting the subject of the proposed formation of a South-Western Naturalists' Union was ventilated. The Secretary and Mr. W. D. Miller attended the inaugural meeting of the Union at Bristol University on November 25th and they recommend that the Section should subscribe to the Union (*see* also pp. lxix, lxxxi).

In the afternoon (Sept. 19th) the Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain, M.B.O.U., gave a lecture to the Section on "The Birds of Spitzbergen," which was admirably illustrated by original lantern slides. This discourse was greatly appreciated, and Mr. Jourdain was cordially thanked on the motion of the Rev. D. J. Pring, seconded by Colonel Gifford.

H. St. George Gray.

The Botanical Section.

President—Mr. J. W. White, F.L.S.

Committee—Dr. H. Downes, F.L.S., Mr. N. G. Hadden, Miss I. M. Roper, F.L.S., Mr. H. S. Thompson, F.L.S., Dr. W. Watson, A.L.S.

Secretary and Treasurer—Mr. W. D. Miller, Cheddon Fitzpaine, Taunton.

THE annual general meeting was held at the Museum, Taunton Castle, on January 12th, 1922, Mr. J. W. White, F.L.S., President, in the chair, when the usual formal business was transacted.

Mr. Thompson and Dr. Downes brought a number of herbarium specimens to the meeting. Mr. Thompson exhibited a map and photographs, illustrating his work on the Gore

Sands, Burnham. The following resolution was proposed by Dr. Downes, seconded by Miss Roper and carried : " That the original subscription of 5*s*. for such members of the Section as are not members of the Parent Society should be rigidly maintained." It was decided to undertake the cost of binding the last two volumes of the *Journal of Botany*, and the four volumes of the *Kew Bulletin* presented by Dr. Downes.

On June 15th, in the hope—somewhat vain as it proved—of suiting botanists from the north of the County, a meeting was arranged at Cheddar. A good party from the Taunton district drove over and had a successful day, the perfect weather making the drive an additional pleasure. Nearly all the local rarities were noted as well as several previously escaped records for the Gorge ; among them *Antennaria dioica*. Mr. White's note in the *Bristol Flora*, 372, as to the occurrence of this plant is of interest. *Cardamine impatiens* and *Polygonatum officinale* were searched for in vain. With regard to the former, those who know it in gardens will not fear for its extinction. *Saxifraga hypnoides* is very scanty and a few more droughty seasons may seriously affect it. In another locality the same fear may be entertained for *Pinguicula vulgaris*, especially as local peat cutting is an added danger where drought need not be feared. While in Cassandra vein, mention may be made of *Andromeda polifolia* whose existence —in spite of the recent find on Mendip—is threatened by the extensive peat workings on the moor. The extinction of these three plants would be an irreparable loss to the County flora.

On July 25th, seventeen members and friends, favoured by ideal weather, spent a pleasant day on Ring Down, Trickey Warren and Widcombe Moor, noting a number of typical wet heath plants. The three *Droseras* with the *D. anglica* x *rotundifolia* hybrid, *Narthecium ossifragum*, *Scutellaria minor*, *Pinguicula lusitanica*, *Rhyncospora alba*, etc., were in great luxuriance, and among other plants noted were *Erysimum cheiranthoides*, *Epilobium palustre*, *E. roseum*, *Alchemilla minor*, and *Lycopodium Selago*. Tea was taken in the open at Holmen Clavel, where specimens and exhibits were discussed. Mr. Corder photographed several groups of plants,

and two indefatigable entomologists added life to the party. The day produced no outstanding botanical results, but was a most enjoyable meeting, members attending from Bristol, Sherborne, North Curry, Ilminster, Bridgwater and Taunton. Our thanks are due to Sir Wm. Goschen and to Sir John Mellor for permission to botanize over their land on this occasion.

The past season has been affected by unusual weather conditions. No doubt the long drought of 1921 has produced results in 1922. Cold and wet weather early in 1922 delayed plant life, and this was followed by three months of dry weather. Trees and flowers hurried to maturity, and by early July the season would have been almost over but for a remarkable second inflorescence in some species. Early in August hundreds of violets were in bloom, notably *Viola hirta*, whose spring flowering had been almost unnoticed. In December *Erophila verna* and *Arenaria serpyllifolia* were flowering freely, and many similar cases might be instanced.

During the year notes have been received dealing with over 300 species and varieties, among the more interesting records being the following :—

Silene anglica, L., var. *quinquevulnera*, L. Near Williton. *Miss A. Wyndham.*

Geranium pyrenaicum, Burm. About North Newton. *Rev. H. H. Harvey.*

Geranium pusillum, L. Upper Merridge ; Langford ; *Dr. Watson.* Dunster ; *Dr. Salisbury.*

Poterium polygamum, Wallst & Kit. Colonist on Tickenham Hill. *Miss Roper.*

Sedum dasyphyllum, L. Chelvey, near Nailsea. *Miss Roper.*

Sium latifolium, L. Bridgwater. Div. 3. *H. Corder.*

Valerianella carinata, Lois. Garden weed, Wayford. *Dr. Downes.*

Filago minima, Fr. Warren near Dunster. *Dr. Watson.*

Antennaria dioica, Gaertn. Upper Cheddar Gorge. *E. J. Hamlin.*

Veronica scutellata, L. Left bank of Chew, Pensford. *J. Gibbons* and *F. Samson.*

Teucrium chamaedrys, L. Old wall, Curry Mallet. Garden escape. *Preb. Hamlet.*

Salicornia herbacea x *dolichostachya*, Moss. Portbury. *H. S. Thompson.*

Littorella juncea, Berg. Yeo Reservoir, Blagdon. Very abundant. *J. Gibbons.*

Juncus tenuis, Willd. Nailsea Heath. *Miss Roper.*

Typha angustifolia, L. Yeo Reservoir, Blagdon. *Miss Roper.*

Zannichellia pedunculata, Reichb. Stert; *E. J. Hamlin.* Minehead; *E. B. Hall.*

Carex strigosa, Huds. Cross Keys, Norton Fitzwarren. *Dr. Watson.*

Molinia caerulea, Moench. Sparingly in two open spaces in Copley Wood. *H. S. Thompson.*

Chara contraria, Kuetz. Rhine, Clapton Moor. *Mrs. Sandwith.*

Tolypella glomerata, Leonh. Rhine, Clapton Moor; *Mrs. Sandwith.* Rhine, near Portbury; *Professor Darbishire.*

Noteworthy casuals and aliens include,—

Myosurus minimus, L. Garden weed at Cheddon, casual; *W. D. Miller.* Garden, Staplegrove; *Dr. Watson.*

Capnoides cava (*Corydalis tuberosa*). Thoroughly naturalized in a wood at Ston Easton. *Mrs. Thatcher.*

Medicago minima, Desr. Garden weed, Bridgwater. *H. Corder.*

Vicia melanops, Sibth. Occasional alien at Frome. *Mrs. Wedgewood*, ex Report B.E.C., 1921.

Erodium maritimum, L'Hérit. Garden weed at Cheddon; casual. *W. D. Miller.*

Anthriscus cerefolius, Hoffm. In plenty on bank at Pitsford Hill. *Dr. Watson.*

Salvia verticillata, L. Hedgerow, Nempnett; *Miss Kenyon.* Dunster; *G. Talbot.*

Dr. Watson has selected the following cryptogams as of special interest,—

Polytrichum nanum, Neck. Shipham. *Mrs. C. J. Waterfall.* Confirming doubtful record in *Mosses of Somerset.*

Madotheca laevigata, Dum. Horner Wood. New for V.C. 5.

Fossombronia wondraczeki, Dum. On a path in Buncombe Wood.

Among lichens the very rare *Ramalia polymorpha*, Ach., and *Buellia praeponens*, A.L.Sm., occur on the shingle at Blue Anchor.

Ricasolia laetevirens, Leight. Horner Wood; is a new County record.

A scheme which has been in the minds of certain naturalists for some time has during the year taken concrete form in the initiation of the South-Western Naturalists' Union. Two invitation meetings held at Bristol in July and November were attended by a number of naturalists representative of societies in several neighbouring counties.

In July the general principle of such a Union was approved and a committee appointed to draft constitution, rules, etc. A great deal of work was done by this provisional committee and a scheme drawn up on lines similar to those of existing Unions. At the November meeting, with about forty naturalists present, the South-Western Union was unanimously inaugurated, the provisional committee's scheme was adopted and a central committee and officers were elected. The Botanical Section promised its support as an affiliated section, and our members are therefore eligible as members of the Union at an annual subscription of 5*s*. payable on January 1st. Non-members of any affiliated society can be elected to the Union by the payment of an annual subscription of 15*s*. The Union does not propose to interfere in any way with the activities of existing societies, its object being to promote mutual intercourse and to collate and—so far as funds permit —to publish results. The Secretary of the Botanical Section will be glad to give further particulars, and the Committee commend the Union to the notice of members of the Section.

Several articles of special interest to Somerset botanists have appeared during the year in the *Journal of Botany* and the *Journal of Ecology*, May and November numbers. In a supplement to the June and July numbers of the *Journal of Botany* Dr. Watson published a guide to the determination of lichens in the field. This useful handbook is also published separately (price 2*s*.) by Messrs. Taylor and Francis, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, E.C.

Mr. Cowan's much appreciated work at the Herbarium has been continued during the year.

There are at present sixty-three members of the Section. It is much to be desired that a larger number of these should take a more active interest in the work.

The Microscopical Section.

President—H. DOWNES, M.B., F.L.S., F.G.S., F.R.M.S., Water Street, Martock.
Committee—Lt.-Col. J. W. GIFFORD, F.R.A.S., Oaklands, Chard, and WALTER WATSON, D.SC., ASSOC.L.S., Taunton School, Taunton; together with the President and Secretary.
Secretary and Treasurer—C. R. KILLICK, M.B., Tower Hill, Williton.

TWO meetings have been held at Taunton Castle during the year. On March 9th several members contributed to the success of the meeting. Col. Gifford exhibited and explained a new eye-piece which he has designed. It is so constructed that the component lenses have the same radius of curvature, an important point tending to lessen the cost of production. The field of view is 55° and is quite flat, the definition being good to the edge. The eye-piece combines some of the advantages of both the Huygenian and the Ramsden eye-pieces. Dr. Watson gave a short account of the life history of a moss and illustrated his remarks with diagrams and slides. Other members showed apparatus and slides of subjects in which they were interested. It is hoped that in the coming year a similar meeting will be arranged to which members will be asked to bring anything in which they are especially interested.

On December 14th Mr. F. G. Dowell gave an address on the recognition under the microscope of the constituent parts of sections of rocks, and showed sections and explained the use of the Society's petrological microscope (presented by Mrs. J. G. Loveday).

During the summer a box of slides contributed by Col. Gifford, Dr. Watson, and the Secretary, were circulated amongst the members, and the reception was so favourable as to justify some enlargement of the scheme in future.

It is with very great regret that we have to record the death of Mr. J. E. Minns, an experienced microscopist, who was one of our most useful members. He was present at the March meeting and exhibited his very fine microscopes and a section cutter, made by himself, which he had been in the habit of using for his pathological work.

At the November meeting it was decided to make use of the funds of the Section by purchasing some books on microscopical subjects for the library, and by circulating the publications of the Royal Microscopical Society and of the Quekett Club amongst the members.

There are now 24 members of the Section.

C. R. Killick.