

The Entomological Section

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Hon. Secretary—J. COWLEY, M.A., F.R.E.S., Holywell House, Edington, Bridgwater.

Assistant Hon. Secretary and Treasurer—A. H. TURNER, F.Z.S., F.R.E.S., Forest Drove, Bickenhall, Hatch Beauchamp, Taunton.

Committee—The above, with C. S. H. BLATHWAYT, M.A., W. A. SEABY, F.S.A., and W. A. WILSON.

Recorders—*Lepidoptera*: A. H. TURNER; *Coleoptera*: W. A. WILSON, 16 Ballfield Road, Minehead; *Other Orders*: J. COWLEY.

THE thirty-first Annual General Meeting was held at Taunton Castle on 20 January 1951. The business meeting was held in the afternoon; the Officers and Committee were re-elected, and the Hon. Treasurer reported a balance of £12 4s. 2d. as at 31 December 1950. Co-operation with the other Natural History Sections of the Society was warmly approved, and provisional arrangements for a joint programme were discussed. In the evening the experiment was tried, and proved very successful, of making the President's Address, 'Protective Resemblance in Animals', open to the public; the Address was given in the Wyndham Hall and with the kind co-operation of the Parent Society was part of their programme of lectures.

Two indoor and three field meetings were held during the preceding twelve months; a fourth meeting on the Quantocks had to be abandoned owing to continual rain. A meeting on 25 February at Taunton Castle was largely taken up by discussions of the Section's future activities, arrangements for recording the County Insect Fauna in the Museum, and the examination of the collections already in the Museum; these are almost entirely Lepidoptera, and the formation of reference collections in other groups is a matter to which the Section has not yet had time to give full consideration. On 20 May a party of members met a coach excursion of the Entomological Section of the British Naturalists' Society at Shapwick Heath; on 10 June Britty Common was visited, and on 2 September the dunes and salt-marsh at Berrow. The meeting on 4 November at Taunton Castle was reserved for members' exhibits and reports on the past season; the Lepidopterists agreed that it had been a very poor year, as seems to have been the case over the whole country, though the abundance of the Marbled White, *Melanargia galathea*, was exceptional; workers in other Orders were generally satisfied with the season, and Diptera had proved specially interesting, and in this respect the West seems to have been favoured, as elsewhere experienced Dipterists claim it to have been a bad year.

The Society's staff has now collected together in the Workroom the entomological books and periodicals in the Library. The Recorders have begun their work of filing records of the County Fauna in the Museum: Mr. A. H. Turner has brought up to date the A. R. Hayward card-index of Somerset Lepidoptera, Mr. W. A. Wilson has deposited the first instalment of the great Order Coleoptera, and the Hon. Secretary has finished the files of records for eight of the smaller Orders; a larger number still remain to be done. At this stage it is too early to make detailed remarks on additions to the County Fauna, except for the best known of the Orders, the Lepidoptera: two notable moths have been added to our local list, a colony of Webb's Wainscot, *Nonagria sparganii*, discovered by Mr. C. S. H. Blathwayt in a marshy locality on the North Somerset coast, and a single specimen of the rare immigrant Rosy Pearl, *Antigastra catalaunalis*, taken by Mr. A. H. Turner in his garden at Bickenhall. A full list of the Diptera of Somerset and Gloucestershire has been published by Mr. H. L. F. Audcent (1949-50, *Proc. Bristol Nat. Soc.*, xxvii: 409-70; xxviii: 45-132).

The membership of the Section rose to 49 during the year; and it is hoped that members will assist in bringing this total to over 50 and in keeping it at that level; more young members are particularly required to further invigorate the Section.

J. COWLEY,
Hon. Sec.