

The Entomological Section.

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

Recorder—Mr. A. E. HUDD, F.E.S., 108, Pembroke Road, Clifton.

Treasurer—Mr. W. A. BOGUE, F.E.S., The Bank House, Watchet.

Secretary—Mr. H. H. SLATER, Brooke House, Cannington.

WITH the cessation of war conditions, Entomologists have come into their own again, and we have had a busy and successful season. Our membership stands at forty-two, and we are trying the experiment of forming a Junior Branch for those of either sex under 19 years of age, which so far seems promising. It is chiefly intended for those *in statu pupillari*, and we propose to have special field-days for their benefit during the various holidays. They can also come to the general field-days and winter meetings of the section, and we have fixed their annual subscription at 2s. 6d.¹

We appeal to all headmasters and mistresses in the county to assist us with our Junior Branch, by being good enough to let the Secretary of the Section know of any pupils under their charge of the age of 13 or 14 who show an aptitude and inclination for entomology, particularly any whose homes are in Somerset. We wish to help them to make entomology an intelligent and permanent pursuit.

The balance in the Treasurer's hands at the Annual Meeting on February 26th, 1919, was £8 9s. 11d.

We discontinued our field meetings during the war, but we have resumed them this year, and had several—on the Turf Moor, at Bruton, at Cothelestone (by kind permission of Mr. Esdaile)—besides more extempore local gatherings. Many good insects have been seen. Amongst *Lepidoptera* the following are County records—*M. Athalia* (J. F. Bird)—*L. Corydon* var. *Syngrapha* (Capt. K. J. Hayward)—*Taenio-campa gracilis* var. *rufescens* (Preb. Wickham)—*B. roboraria* (W. W. Macmillan)—*Botys verbascalis* (Preb. Wickham)—*Ilithya semirubella* (C. J. Perrens). In addition to these

1. While speaking of subscriptions, will our members kindly send theirs to the Treasurer direct, and save the Section postage, and the Secretary a good deal of correspondence?

records, Mr. Symes has a remarkable melanic male of *Arg. Paphia*, which is probably unique. Mr. Doidge has met with a remarkable albino of *Nem. lucina*. Mr. Hudd reports a *Deiopeia pulchella* taken near Bath by Master J. A. Hope of Clifton College in August, 1915; and the writer has, after eight years' special search, found *Tholomiges turfosalis*, which no one had previously seen in Somerset but Mr. Barrett, the author of the best work on British Lepidoptera, many years ago. There remains a number of *Micro-lepidoptera* to be worked out, some of which will probably prove to be additions to our county list.

Amongst *Hymenoptera*, Miss Jermyn has taken *Mutilla europæa*, an extremely rare "Fossor" in Britain, which is a parasite in Humble-bees' nests. Col. Jermyn reports *Psithyrus quadricolor*, Lepel., a scarce parasitic Humble-bee new to the county, and Master Rowland Jermyn (of our Junior Branch) has taken a pair of *Eristalis aeneus*, Scop., a syrphid not previously recorded in Somerset.

A number of new *Diptera* have been added to the county list, by Mr. A. E. Hudd (who has about 100 species to record), Col. Jermyn, and others, bringing the number added, since the *Victoria County History* was published in 1903, to somewhat over 1000 species. Mr. Charbonnier, our most capable expert in *Hymenoptera* and *Diptera*, publishes in the *Proceedings* his fourth paper on these additions to the *Diptera*, and we are under the greatest obligation to him for his skilled and patient labour.

Amongst the *Coleoptera*, Captain Gimingham has been doing good work, and has recorded a number of good beetles in the *Entomological Monthly Magazine* during 1919. He also mentions several other species amongst his captures this season which appear to be county records—*Blethisa multipunctata* (Shapwick), *Bagous tempestivus* (Nailsea), and *Telephorus paludosus*, *Hylesinus vittatus*, *Lissodema quadripustulata*, and *Eryx ater* (all at Long Ashton). Capt. Troup has also a lengthy list of county records ready.

We have been for years hoping to see several new Sections started, for which there is an evident call to complete Zoological work in Somerset, including a Microscopical Section. To

give one instance for the grounds on which we express such wishes and hopes ; there is an obscure group of insects named *Mallophaga*, a kind of lice which inhabits and feeds on the plumage of birds. We have never been able to take up their study, though there are many species, because as entomologists we have next to no opportunities of handling wild birds, and, therefore of collecting these parasites for examination. The examination would have to be microscopic, and entomologists, as a rule (unless they happen to be studying the lepidopterous genitalia for purposes of classification) do not habitually use any microscopic appliances beyond a pocket lens, and have had little or no experience in mounting minute insects on microscopic slides, as would be necessary in the case of the *Mallophaga*.

The Ornithological Section.

Vice-President—The Rev. F. L. BLATHWAYT, Melbury Osmund, Dorchester.
Secretary and Treasurer—Mr H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, Taunton Castle, Taunton.

AS recorded in the Annual Report of the Society in July last, the tragic death of Dr. J. Wiglesworth, which took place at Hurtstone Point, near Porlock, on May 16th, when collecting notes for his contemplated work on Somerset birds, came as a great shock to many members of the Society, and especially to those connected with this Section, of which he was President and Recorder. Although he became a member as recently as 1914, he did a large amount of valuable ornithological work for the Society. He contributed to the *Proceedings* papers on the Little Owl and the Heronies of Somerset, edited the annual Bird Notes, and compiled a catalogue of the stuffed birds preserved in the County Museum, with special notes on those taken in Somerset. This catalogue is now in the Society's Library ; and the re-labelling of the general series of birds was completed with the catalogue.

It is gratifying to the members to know that Dr. Wiglesworth, under the terms of his will, bequeathed to the Society a large number of his books (including all his botanical works),

some stuffed birds and nests, and his cabinets of British birds' eggs. An obituary notice, with portrait, is given in another place in this volume.

Another member of the Section, Mr. C. R. Gawen, on leaving Milverton, recently presented to the Museum a large cabinet containing his collection of British birds' eggs, together with a manuscript catalogue of the same.

A much smaller collection of eggs, mostly obtained in the neighbourhood of Norton Fitzwarren, has been presented by Mr. C. H. Morris (Highbridge). Other eggs have been given by Mr. C. J. Pring.

The additions to the Museum collections, given in greater detail on p. lxxiii, include the skin of a young Raven, fully fledged; age about five weeks. It was seen by Mr. Stanley Lewis in April, hanging lifeless from the eyrie in the cliffs, Cheddar Gorge; subsequently it fell to the ground, and it was skinned and preserved by Mr. Lewis. There were three survivors, however, and a pair of Ravens brought off three young on Steep Holme.

Since the lamented death of the Recorder, the Secretary has collected such notes for 1919 as have been sent to him from time to time, and it is hoped that they will be brought together in the form of a report for the year.

Several reports on the increase of the Little Owl in Somerset have been received. On the other hand the Goldcrests and Long-tailed Tits are still very scarce.

Interesting reports have been received from Mr. S. Lewis, Mr. B. W. Tucker, and Mr. N. G. Hadden, and the former claims to have been the first ornithologist to handle Somerset laid eggs of the Red Grouse (*British Birds*, August 1919).

Seventeen new members have joined during 1919, making the total membership of the Section fifty-eight,—a number not previously reached.

The Botanical Section.

Secretary and Treasurer—Mr. W. D. MILLER, Cheddon, Taunton.

Committee—

Dr. H. DOWNES, F.L.S., Dr. W. WATSON, A.L.S., Miss I. M. ROPER, F.L.S.,
Mr. H. S. THOMPSON, F.L.S., and Mr. N. G. HADDEN.

THE issue of the report for 1919 is shadowed by the death of the President and Recorder, the Rev. E. S. Marshall, F.L.S., late Rector of West Monkton, Taunton. It is difficult to overestimate the loss which the Section has thus sustained. Mr. Marshall combined with a special knowledge of certain critical species, such as *rubus*, *hieracium*, and *epilobium*, remarkable first hand acquaintance with the flora of the whole county, with the exception of parts of the north and north-east which have been very thoroughly explored by Mr. J. W. White and the Bristol botanists. In addition Mr. Marshall's critical faculty and extended range of work in other counties and in Scotland had given him an authority which dies with him, and which no one else will be willing to assume.

Mrs. Marshall, another original member of the Section, died shortly before her husband, and we have also lost Dr. Wiglesworth, a keen horticultural botanist, whose tragic death is elsewhere recorded.

The Section held its annual general meeting at the Museum, Taunton Castle, on February 27th, when Mr. Marshall presided over a fair attendance. Dr. Watson, Hon. Sec. *pro temp.* presented the accounts, showing a balance of £6 16s. 3d. Mr. Marshall was cordially re-elected as President and Recorder, and Mr. Miller agreed to take up again the duties of Secretary and Treasurer, Dr. Watson receiving a vote of thanks for so ably acting as interim secretary. It was decided to purchase the Census catalogues for Hepatics and Mosses. The arrangements for one or two field days were entrusted to a small committee. Allusion was also made to Mr. Cowan's admirable herbarium work.

A field day was held at Shapwick on June 26th, permission being kindly granted by Col. B. A. Warry. The turf moor

was unusually dry and accessible, and about a dozen members spent some most enjoyable hours under favourable conditions. Though nothing new was recorded, the orchids—including several apparent hybrids—received much attention, and among other plants noticed were some remarkable *Rubi*, *Galium Vaillantii*, *Camelina sativa*, *Cladium Mariscus* and *Peucedanum palustre*.

A fair number of members met at Chard on July 24th. Although the field work was not prolific, the party were very kindly entertained to tea at Oaklands by Colonel and Mrs. Gifford, to whom all thanks are due. Col. Gifford and the President spent some time dredging the Reservoir in search of *Nitella*, etc., but without success.

A number of notes has been supplied by members. These are largely either of highly critical plants, or interesting only from the point of view of county records. Unfortunately the papers of the late Recorder are not at the moment available, and anything like a comprehensive account of the season's work is not possible in a limited space, but a few of the more generally interesting notes have been selected.

Ranunculus Sardous. Near Long Ashton (10). *Dr. Neuman Nield*, per *H. S. T.*

Erysimum cheiranthoides. Badger Street (3), *Dr. Watson*; and Broadway (4), *Dr. Downes*.

Viola hirta × *oderata*. Thurlbear (3). *Dr. Watson*.

Silene inflata, var. *hirsuta* (Gray). West Dowlish (4). *Dr. Downes*.

Euonymus europaeus. Horner Valley (2). Mr. Hadden notes a large bush bearing white fruit, cf. Miss Roper's note, in *Journ. Bot.*, 1912, p. 377, of two similar bushes near Bristol.

Rhamnus catharticus. Vinniford (2). *N. G. Hadden*. Not previously recorded for the west of the county.

Vicia gracilis. Hambridge (4). *Dr. Downes*.

Myriophyllum verticillatum. Hambridge (4). *Dr. Downes*.

Galium erectum. Sidcot (9). *H. S. Thompson*.

Valerianella rimosa. Ashill (4). *Dr. Downes*.

Carduus crispus × *nutans*. Donyatt (4). *Dr. Downes*.

Anchusa sempervirens. Snowdon Quarry, Chard (6). *Dr. Downes*.

Veronica scutellata. Acmead Bog (2), N. G. Hadden; and Tickenham Moor (9), Miss Roper.

Scirpus cernuus (9). Mr. Thompson reports that this little rush, discovered in 1900 by Messrs. White and Bucknall is now abundant beside many of the rhines.

Schoenus nigricans. Churchill (9). Miss Roper.

Among Fungi, Miss Roper reports *Ovularia Doronici* on leaves of *Doronicum Pardalianches*, Flax Bourton, new to Britain; and *Hormiscium phoeum* on *Erythraea centaurium*, Asham Woods.

Owing to the initiative of Mr. H. Stuart Thompson and to the generosity of members and friends of the Section, it has been found possible to purchase the later numbers of the *Journal of Botany*, and so secure the earlier volumes (I to XXXIII) offered on that condition by Mr. C. H. Spencer Perceval of Longwitton Hall, Morpeth. The series is now complete, and is a notable addition to the library. Appended is a list of the subscribers:—The Rt. Hon. H. Hobhouse, the Rev. W. Lucas, the Rev. E. S. Marshall, F.L.S., Captain Hamilton Leigh, F.L.S., Dr. H. Downes, F.L.S., and Messrs. W. P. Hiern, F.R.S., A. F. Somerville, J. W. White, F.L.S., H. S. Thompson, F.L.S., T. W. Cowan, F.L.S., W. S. Clark, J. B. Clark, H. Martin Gibbs, Charles Tite, and W. D. Miller.

The Secretary and a few friends visited Steep Holme on June 3rd. Owing no doubt to the protection afforded by Mr. Sleeman, the lessee of the island, the peony is in a flourishing condition, and seedlings of all ages were observed.

Mr. Cowan, though now resident in Clevedon, has been continuing his herbarium work, and Mr. Thompson has sent in twenty-eight additional sheets of plants. Members will note that Mr. Marshall's excellent herbarium has been bequeathed to Cambridge University. The Museum herbarium should eventually cover adequately the whole of the county flora. The catalogue prepared by Mr. Cowan shows at a glance which species, sub-species and varieties are still wanting, and it is greatly to be desired that botanists should consult this catalogue, and help to fill the gaps by drying and sending in, as opportunity occurs, such plants as are still required. It may be noted that many quite common plants are either lacking

or poorly represented. The collection and drying of these could be done without any very special knowledge.

An account of the Liverworts of Somerset is in preparation and may appear in 1920. Members who have, or can hear of, any notes or records dealing with the subject are invited to communicate with Dr. Watson, A.L.S., Taunton School, Taunton.

A special general meeting was held at the Museum, Taunton Castle on December 18th. There were present Dr. Downes, Dr. Watson, Mrs. Watson, Miss Roper, Mrs. St. George Gray, Miss Roch, Miss Miller, and Messrs. C. Tite, H. St. George Gray, H. S. Thompson, N. G. Hadden, E. Lovatt and W. D. Miller. Numerous letters of regret for non-attendance were received. Dr. Downes was elected to the chair. After the minutes were read, the resolution below was proposed by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Tite, and supported by Dr. Downes, Dr. Watson and Mr. Thompson :—"That the members of the Botanical Section of the Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society, in general meeting, desire to record their grateful appreciation of the valuable help given to the botanical work of the county by the late President, and their sincere sorrow at his loss, and to offer to his family their deep sympathy."

The resolution was carried unanimously, the members standing.

Mr. Miller proposed and Mr. Lovatt seconded that an Executive Committee be formed, consisting of Drs. Downes and Watson, Miss Roper, and Messrs. H. S. Thompson, N. G. Hadden, and W. D. Miller (*Sec.*), with power to add to their number, to act as Recorders, to draw up the annual report for publication, to arrange meetings, and generally to take such action as they consider desirable for the advancement of Somerset botany. The Committee to report to the annual general meeting. This proposal was carried unanimously. Considerable discussion took place as to the methods of helping junior botanical work, and Mr. Lovatt gave particulars of naturalist work by Boy Scouts. It was urged that members should give individual help to school botany and Scout Troops wherever possible.

Dr. Downes read some interesting notes on a list of Somerset plants drawn up by the Rev. C. Parish in 1850.

Mr. Thompson and Mr. Miller were asked to write an obituary notice of Mr. Marshall for the *Proceedings* of the Parent Society, and it was decided to undertake the cost of reproducing and printing a portrait for circulation. Mr. Gray announced that a handsome third edition of Sowerby (Boswell Syme) had been presented to the Society by the family of the late President in his memory.

Despite losses the membership of the Section is well maintained. The Secretary will be glad to be put in touch with all botanists, whether advanced or not, who might care to join.