

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 took place on Thursday, March 4, 1926, six members only being present. The officers were all re-elected, and the Treasurer's account showed a balance of £1 4s. 7d. Field meetings were fixed for the season.

The past year was not a fruitful one, as far as work on the County insect fauna was concerned. This was chiefly due to climatic eccentricities.

LEPIDOPTERA

There is only one addition to the Somerset list, viz.

Peronea umbrana, Hb. A very scarce species, chiefly known from the Dorking and Croydon neighbourhoods in Surrey, and the New Forest. In the latter, its principal home, it has not been seen, for years, till 1926, when two examples have been taken by Mr. Sheldon. Mr. A. R. Hayward has, however, taken one at Haselbury Park, near Crewkerne, Sept. 20, 1926. I might add that he, with his brother, have taken eighty-six of *P. Cristana* in the same locality, comprising twenty-three forms of this excessively variable species.

HYMENOPTERA

Mr. Martineau sends me the following list of records, mentioning that he has had no assistance from the Section in making it, that all the doubtful species have been identified by Dr. Perkins, and that all were taken at Crewkerne.

Halictus punctatissimus, Sch. 12.IV.25.

Nomada flavopicta, Kirb. (= *jacobææ*). II.26 ; VII.26.

N. leucophthalma, Kirb. (*borealis*). 13.IV.26.

Megachile ligniseca, Kirb. 11.VIII.26.

Crossocerus (*Crabro*) *ovalis*, Lep. (*anxius*). 27.VI.26.

‘The following species, also taken at Crewkerne, have all been recorded previously, but from the N. or E. of the county only, and are mentioned here to show their probable general distribution.’

Andrena fulva, Schr. Plentiful in 1926.

Halictus leucopus, Kirb.

Nomada germanica, Panz. (*ferruginata*).

Cuphopterus (*Crabro*) *dimidiatus*, F.

Blepharipus (*Crabro*) *nigritus*, Lep. (*pubescens*).

Ablepharipus (*Crabro*) *podagricus*, v.d. Lind.

Physoscelis (*Crabro*) *clavipes*, L.

Arpactus tumidus, Panz.

Nysson dimidiatus, Jur.

Salix pusillus, Sch.

S. parvulus, Dhlbm.

Odynerus gracilis, Br.

Hoplomerus (*Odynerus*) *melanocephalus*, Gm.

H. lævipes, Sh.

The names in brackets refer to the late Mr. Saunders' work (*Hymenoptera Aculeata of the British Isles*).

ICHNEUMONIDAE

Ichneumoninae

Trogus lutorius, Fab. e pupâ *Sphingis populi*. Bridgwater, 1926 (C.J.P.).

Coelichneumon annulator, Fab. Shapwick, 7.V.26.

Cryptinae

Trichocryptus cinctorius, Fab. Shapwick, 29.V.26.

Glyphicnemis erythrogaster, Gr. Chilton Trinity Brick Ponds, 17.VIII.26.

Phygadeuon fumator, Gr. Bridgwater Brick Ponds, 22.VII.26.

Hemiteles necator, Gr. Shapwick, 29.V.26.

- H. areator*, Pz. Cannington, 11.VII.26.
H. cingulator, Gr. Luxboro' Valley, 15.VII.26.
H. pedestris, Fab. Shapwick, 29.V.26.
Atractodes tenebricosus, Gr. Chilton T. Brick Ponds, 17.VIII.26.

Tryphoninae

- Polyclistus mansuetor*, Gr. Cannington, 1.VIII.26.
Bassus lætatorius, Fab. Bridgwater Brick Ponds, 22.VII.26.
Homocidus pictus, Gr. Seven-wells Combe, Quantocks, 5.VII.25.
Zoötrephus rufiventris, Gr. Shapwick, 29.V.26.
Promethus laticarpus, Thms. Chilton T. Brick Ponds, 17.VIII.26.
Euryproctus geniculosus, Gr. Shapwick, 7.VI.26.

Ophioninae

- Meloboris dorsalis*, Gr. Bridgwater Brick Ponds, 22.VII.26.
M. ischnocera, Th. Shapwick, 29.V.26.

Except for Mr. C. J. Perrens' initials to the first mentioned species, the records are my own.

TRICHOPTERA

Though I have worked fresh ground in several places, the results in new county species are very meagre, viz.

Limnophilidae

- Limnophilus stigma*, Curt. Shapwick, 29.V.26.
L. extricatus, M'Lach. Cannington Brook, 1.VII.26.

Sericostomatidae

- Lasiocephala basalis*, Kol. Luxboro' Valley, 15.VII.26.

Hydropsychidae

- Holocentropus picicornis*, Steph. Chilton T. Brick Ponds,
17.VIII.26.

SIPHONAPTERA

= *Aphaniptera*—Fleas

Ceratophyllus Styx, Rothsch. Hatched from nest of sand-martin, Cannington, 26.VIII.26.

C. hirundinis, Curt. Nest of house-martin, Cannington, 2.IX.26.

C. farreni, Roths. Same nest and date as preceding.

C. gallinulæ, Dale. Bred from nest of red-backed shrike, sent to me from Barrow by Mr. C. Tuckett. A new and unusual host for a previously (1924) recorded species.

I was quite unaware that any one else had worked Somerset fleas, but heard this year that Mr. A. T. Davies, of Avon House, Keynsham, had done so. He is very kindly allowing me to publish six species which I have not as yet chanced to meet with, viz.

Ctenocephalus felis, Bouché. Domestic cat, and, less commonly, dog. The flea of the wild cat is usually the rabbit flea.

Rhadinopsylla pentacanthus, Roths. From 'field mouse.'

Ceratophyllus rusticus, Wagl. Nest of house-martin.

Doratopsylla dasyncnemus, Roths. Shrew mouse.

Palaeopsylla sorecis (sic!), Dale. Shrew mouse.

Hystricopsylla talpæ, Curt. 'Field mouse.'

COLEOPTERA

Three beetles new to Somerset have been taken by Mr. L. A. Hawkins, a student at Clifton College, of whose work Miss Joyce Barrington speaks highly, and who will find it quite worth while to continue his work in this difficult branch of study.

Dyschirius acneus, Dj. Blagdon, 14.IV.25.

Bembidium dentellum, Th. (*flammulatum*, Clair). Failand, 19.IV.25.

B. clarki, Daws. Blagdon and Barrow, 14.IV.25.

Stenophilus mixtus, Hbst. Blagdon, 27.IV.23.

Acupalpus luridus, Dj. Barrow, 14.IV.25.

Anthracus (Acupalpus) consputus, Dft. Clapton-in-Gordano, 15.VII.25.

Agonum (Anchomenus) marginatum, L. Clapton, 15.VII.25.

A. dahl, Borre. (*atratum*, Dft.) Hallen, 9.IV.25.

Helophorus griseus, Hbst. Portbury, 22.V.24.

Cercyon ustulatus, Preys. (= *haemorrhöus*, Gyll.) Blagdon,
27.IV.23.

Caulotrypis aenopiceus, Boh. Brockley, 25.V.24.

I have also found a record in a letter from the late Colonel Jermyn, who adds, 'Pearman identified it for me.'

Conosoma immaculatum, Steph. Brockley Combe, 13.VII.16.

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 1926 Annual Meeting of the Section was held at the Somerset County Museum on April 8th, when the Rev. F. L. Blathwayt occupied the chair; there was a large attendance.

The Treasurer presented the financial statement for 1925, which showed a balance in hand on December 31st of £11 11s. 11d. There was also on deposit at the bank the sum of £28 5s. 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 Dr. Henry B. Elton for South Somerset. Fifteen new candidates for membership were elected, which brought the Section up to over ninety members.

The Twelfth Report on Somerset Birds (1925), edited by the President, was sent out to the members at the end of March. The edition was limited to 160 copies, and might be purchased for the sum of 2s. 6d. by persons not belonging to the Section. At the end of the report a list of members was printed for the first time, and the district to which they belong was indicated. The report also included a complete list of the ornithological books in the Society's Library. Since its publication an Illustration Fund has been opened, to which several donations have already been made. By this means it will be possible to give a few illustrations in the annual reports.

Two books have been purchased during the year from the Wiglesworth Fund; and Captain L. Loyd has promised to give some parts of *The Zoologist* and *The Ibis*.

Just before the Annual Meeting a typewritten Index to the

Reports, nos. II to X inclusive, was issued, and is on sale at 2s. a copy.

A sub-Committee has been appointed to confer with the Somerset County Council as to the present Wild Birds Protection Order, and advise. The Committee has taken action, and Mr. E. W. Hendy, the spokesman for the sub-Committee, will be meeting the Wild Birds Protection Committee to express the views of the majority of the Section on the matter. Mr. A. F. Luttrell has been instrumental in bringing this about.

The President has suggested that special observations should be made, during 1926, of fifteen selected species of birds; and it is hoped to extend the scheme in the future.

Towards the end of February 1926, a fine adult female specimen of the Greenland Falcon was taken at Watchet, disabled, and was given by Mr. E. B. Bellamy to the County Museum, provided it was set up in a suitable manner. It is now a much admired addition to our ornithological collections.

On April 8th (in the afternoon) the Section, in conjunction with the Taunton and Bridgwater Field Clubs, held a meeting in the Exchange Picture House, 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 lecture entitled 'Aristocrats of the Air.' The lecturer's pictures were of the highest order. The meeting was very well attended; and Captain Knight was elected an honorary life member of the Section.

The autumn meeting was held at Taunton Castle on October 7th, and to that meeting some of the above observations refer. In the afternoon the Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain and Mr. Leyborne Popham spoke on the nesting haunts and habits of some of the rarer Wading-birds which visit the British Isles, chiefly at the time of the spring and autumn migrations. The speakers described their experiences in watching the birds in distant countries, especially in North Europe. Valuable series of eggs illustrating the subject were exhibited by the lecturers in particular, also by the Rev. C. J. Pring and Captain Loyd. The meeting was voted a great success.

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 was held at the Museum, Taunton Castle, on January 16, 1926, Dr. Watson, President, in the chair. The accounts were passed showing a balance in hand of £7 5s. 8d., and it was decided to purchase a copy of St. Brody's *Flora of Weston*, and the *B. E. C. Report* for 1924, and to subscribe 10s. to the fund for the upkeep of the Sharpham Moor Plot.

The Committee's report for 1925 was read and adopted. Mrs. E. S. Gregory, the authoress of *British Violets*, was unanimously elected an Hon. Member of the Section.

Dr. Watson gave a short address, illustrated by specimens and figures, on 'The origin of floral leaves'. Basing his remarks on an examination of abnormal growth in the greater stitchwort, he showed how the various parts of flowers, including stamens and carpels, could in some cases be modified into one another, and might be looked upon as structures corresponding to leaves. Mr. Miller exhibited some of the rarer Somerset sedges, and Mr. Thompson some interesting sheets of various species of *Lathyrus*.

On June 3rd a large party met at Highbridge, and walked thence by the River Brue to Burnham, and subsequently over part of the sand-hills. Plants of the mud littoral, railway sidings and the dunes came under observation, and a very large number of species was identified. Such occasions hardly lend themselves to critical work, rather to a rapid and general survey of plant associations, giving a breadth and tone to botanical field work. Junior members must have met with

many species for the first time, and more advanced botanists could find plenty of interest in varietal and critical forms, in the various aliens observed, and in the modifiability of the plant to suit its habitat. Among the more interesting plants met with were *Trigonella purpurascens*, *Trifolium maritimum*, *Galium tricorne*, *Orchis hircina* (in bud), *Festuca uniglumis*, *Elymus arenarius*, and *Ophioglossum vulgatum*. The Hon. Secretary and Miss Miller entertained the party to tea. The outing was altogether enjoyable and useful.

On Saturday, June 19th, a very pleasant afternoon was spent on the elevated ground of Britty Common, Div (4), and Blackwater, Div (6) on the Blackdown Hills. Good vegetative growth had taken place, but on the whole the flowering was late, and many of the typical bog plants were not yet in bloom. Dr. Watson observed *Carex helodes* Link. near Buckland, and more than one hybrid of the marsh and spotted orchids. He names them *Orchis latifolia* L. (= *praetermissa* Druce) x *elodes* Gris. (= *ericetorum* Linton) and *O. maculata* L. (= *fuchsii* Druce) x *elodes* Gris. Controversy is still rife, and the heart of the seeker after truth may well fail when confronted by a marsh full of these fine orchids, and when *Habenaria conopsea* Benth. interferes as well, as it does on the peat moor, identification is additionally difficult. The district traversed is a rich one, and this year *Habenaria bifolia* and *Veronica scutellata* have been added to the previously recorded plant life of Britty Common. *Peplis portula* should be looked for; it has been observed but not recorded. The party had tea at Castle Inn, and the majority returned to Taunton by car. The thanks of the Section are due to Lord Portman for permission to botanize on his lands. On both of the above excursions pupils from Bishop Fox's School were a welcome addition to the party.

The proposed meeting on the peat moor for July 16th had to be unavoidably abandoned.

Though observations recorded during the season are not of outstanding interest, it is satisfactory that a much larger number of members have sent in notes, and about 150 new stations have been entered on the card index. A short list of the more noteworthy records follows:

Barbarea vulgaris L. var. *arcuata* Fries. (= *divaricata* Trim.

- & Dyer). (10) By River Chew, Chew Magna. A very distinct plant with many of the pods spreading at right angles to the axis. Flowers paler and greener than in the type. *H. S. Thompson.*
- Teesdalia nudicaulis* Br. (2) Reappeared on Porlock Hill a few yards from its previous station. At least twenty vigorous plants. *N. G. Hadden.*
- Erodium moschatum* L'Hérit. var. *minor* Rouy. (8) Cross, Axbridge. This plant begins to flower towards the end of February, it remains dwarf, the musky smell is very slight, and it is far from uncommon. *W. D. Miller.*
- Lathyrus aphaca* L. (3) Roadside, Fivehead Hill. *Miss Taylor.*
- Crataegus monogyna* Jacq. var. *parvifolia* Druce. (3) A plant near the Cross Keys, Norton, on the Staplegrove side of the stream, was remarkable for its small and deeply cut leaves. An inadequate supply of water did not account for the smallness of the leaves, as it was quite near to the stream. *W. Watson.*
- Apium inundatum* Reichb. fil. (10) Roadside pond, Beacon Hill, above Shepton Mallet. *Miss Roper.*
- Erigeron canadensis* L. The disused shell factory near Puriton is smothered in this plant. *W. D. Miller.*
- Antennaria dioica* Gaertn. (9) Field above Goblin Combe Cleeve. *Miss H. M. Dixon.*
- Gnaphalium sylvaticum* L. (1) Skilgate. *Col. Watts.* New for (1).
- Scrophularia nodosa* L. var. *bobartii* Pryor. (3) Still occurs at Mill Cross, Kingston. The flowers in this particular plant are altogether green, and the leaves are much paler green than in the neighbouring plants of the type. Several plants occur on the side of the old canal, Norton, which are intermediate between the type and the variety; the leaves are paler in colour but the flowers are not wholly green, a little purple being present. *W. Watson.*
- Veronica scutellata* L. (4) Britty Common. *W. D. Miller.*
- Scutellaria galericulata* L. (2) Williton. *Miss Wyndham.*
(3) Near Huish Champflower. *H. S. Thompson.* This species has not previously been recorded in the county west of Norton-Fitzwarren.

- Atriplex hortensis* L. (3) Bathpool. *W. Watson*. Though one of the five species of *Atriplex* recognized by Bentham, this plant has not only not been recorded for the county, but has apparently not been included in any British list, even as a casual, until the eleventh edition of the *London Catalogue*. It seems possible that the *genus* may still require some elucidation.
- Rumex pulcher* L. (4) Ham Hill. *H. Downes*. New for (4).
- Daphne mezereum* L. (10) A bush noticed by Mr. B. W. Tucker at Eaker Hill Wood, Chewton Mendip, in 1917 disappeared, but the species still exists there—one bush said to have white flowers. There is every appearance of its being native. *W. D. Miller*.
- Ceratophyllum submersum* L. (9) A narrow pond some 40 yds. long communicating by a ditch with the River Yeo just east of Congresbury, is choked with this plant, which was collected in good fruit. It is possible that it was from this pool that Dillenius got the plant just 200 years ago. *H. S. Thompson*.
- Listera cordata* Br. (1) A recent note of good authority records this plant from the s.e. end of Winsford Hill near Mounsey Hill Gate. It should be looked for, as it has not been noted with certainty in the county since 1872. *W. D. Miller*.
- Habenaria bifolia* Br. (4) Britty Common. *W. Watson*.
- Sparganium ramosum* Curt. var. *microcarpum* Neum. (3) Near Bathpool. The type and *S. neglectum* Beeby were gathered in the same district on the same day. *W. Watson*. Mr. Thompson found about a dozen plants of a *Sparganium*, not in flower, but probably *S. simplex*, in the wet mud of the new salt marsh at Berrow. Probably brought down with fresh water from the River Parret. The sand at high-water mark for a mile or more n. of the mouth of the Parret is not infrequently strewn with myriads of plants of *Lemna minor*. So far none of the other duck-weeds have been observed. *W. D. Miller*.
- Carex strigosa* Huds. (6) Cricket St. Thomas. *H. Downes*. New for (6).
- C. flava* L. var. *lepidocarpa* Tausch. (8) Near Shapwick Station. *Col. Watts*. (*teste* Druce and Wilmott.)
- C. vesicaria* L. (4) West Moor between Kingsbury and Thorney. Probably not uncommon in this neighbourhood. *H. Downes*.

Poa nemoralis L. (6) On wall top, Buckland St. Mary. *W. Watson*. New for (6).

Festuca arundinacea Schreber. (3) In a pond near Taunton School. Odd plants of this seem to occur casually inland. The plants recorded at Haygrass in 1920 eventually disappeared, and probably the same fate will attend the plants here recorded. How such a plant becomes casual is another question. *W. Watson*.

Lolium perenne L. (3) Bishop's Hull. A curious complanate and branched form. var. *compressum* Sibth? Also seen at Minehead and some years ago at Staplegrove, and noted elsewhere by General Frith. *W. Watson*. On a specimen gathered by Dr. Downes on Ham Hill vide *B. E. C. Report*, vol. vii, pt. 4, 1924.

An interesting colony of aliens and casuals occurred on a patch of sandy soil at Burnham. The ground, on which old inhabitants can remember crops of oats and lucerne, had been enclosed for poultry for at least five years. The patch is only about 15 yards square, and it was covered throughout the season with an exceedingly vigorous growth of common weeds of maritime waste ground such as *Thlaspi arvense*, *Cerastium*, (some plants of *C. semidecandrum* were 18 in. across), *Stellaria*, *Scandix pecten-veneris*, *Salvia verbenaca*, *Plantago coronopus*, *Chenopodium album*, *Atriplex patula*, etc. Though it was impossible to watch the ground all the summer, it was visited several times. Below are listed the majority of the foreigners observed, and there were a few others not identified. It may be noted that several plants usually associated with such casuals were not present, e.g. *Amsinckia*, *Amarantus*, *Phalaris canariensis*, etc., nor were there any vetches. While the feeding of chickens might be responsible for several of these species, the presence of such a number of them in so confined a space is a little difficult to account for. Dr. Druce kindly identified many of the species.

Ranunculus arvensis L.—*Erysimum orientale* Mill. (= *perfoliatum* Crantz).—*Sisymbrium altissimum* L. Leaves with hair-like segments. Pods very long.—*Camelina sativa* Crantz. Plant about 3 ft. high.—*Lepidium virginicum* L. Closely resembling *L. ruderalis*. Scentless. (*Lepidium ruderalis* L. 'Sili-

cules ovales, plus longues que larges, échancrées au sommet, non ailées ; graines non ailées.—*L. virginicum* L. ‘Silicules orbiculaires, aussi larges que longues, ailées et échancrées au sommet ; graines étroitement ailées d’un coté.’ Coste.)—*Vogelia paniculata*. *Cruciferae*. Flowers yellow. Leaves sagittate, clasping the stem. Pods round. Plant glaucous.—*Saponaria vaccaria* L.—*Bupleurum* sp. Apparently intermediate between *B. rotundifolium* and *B. protractum*.—*Galium tricorne* Stokes.—*Anagallis caerulea* Schreb. (= *foemina* Mill.)—*Lappula lappula* (= *Echinosperrum lappula*). *Boraginaceae*. Flowers pale blue.—*Plantago cynops* L. *Chenopodium murale* L.—*Panicum crus-galli* L.—*Setaria viridis* Beauv.—*Eragrostis* sp. Probably *E. pilosa*.—*Beckmannia eruciforme*.

Among cryptogams Dr. Watson notes the following new vice-comital records.

Riccia crystallina. Berrow.

Tortula vahliana. Combwich.

Bilimbia subviridescens. Minehead.

Bacidia beckhausii var. *poliaena*. Combe St. Nicholas.

The Section has sustained a serious loss by the death in May at Clevedon of Mr. T. W. Cowan. Mr. Cowan was one of the original members of the Section, and it is to him that we owe the ordered and satisfactory state of the County Herbarium. Only those who have attempted the mounting of plants in some quantity know the skill and patience involved, and Mr. Cowan spent both liberally on this work. He was a Fellow of the Linnean Society, and of the Geological Society, and President of the British Beekeepers Association. He spoke a number of languages and was widely travelled and read. But those who knew him will remember best his gentle courtesy and thoughtful generosity. At the meeting at Burnham on June 3rd Dr. Watson, as President, moved a vote of deep sympathy, and the Secretary was desired to convey the same to Mrs. Cowan.

Dr. Watson has recently published an *Elementary Botany* (Arnold), a book which may commend itself to members who wish to know more about plants than their names.

The number of members of the Section is now sixty-two.

Microscopical Section

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

Vice-Presidents—JOSEPH CLARK, F.R.M.S., H. DOWNES, M.B., F.L.S.,
G. FORDEN, M.R.C.S., and E. M. NELSON, F.R.M.S.

Secretary and Treasurer—C. R. KILLICK, M.B., Tower Hill, Williton,
with the assistance of C. M. BEDFORD, Taunton School, Taunton.

THERE are twenty-one members in the Section, and the Treasurer holds £3 11s. 4d. in hand. The expenses last year amounted to £3 0s. 11d. The *Journals* of the Royal Microscopical Society are taken in and bound, and added to the Society's library; in addition there are in the library several useful books on Microscopy.

A subscription is paid to the South-Western Naturalists' Union, and the rest of the expenses are for printing reports, circulating notices, and for postage.

The object of the Section is to bring together those interested in microscopical work in the county, so that those who require assistance may be brought into contact with more experienced microscopists.

With this object in view we obtained the consent of five members or other distinguished microscopists to be our vice-presidents. The late Mr. T. W. Cowan, F.L.S., F.R.M.S., was amongst the number, but unfortunately, a fall from his library steps on May 17th caused his death on May 23rd from the injuries received. Mr. Cowan was known as the 'father of British Beekeepers' and the designation was well deserved, for he probably did more than any other man of his time to assist beekeepers in their work and to lead them to the study of the natural history of the bee. He was an expert mechanic and constructed his microscope on an original design which enabled it to be rotated on its base so as to be more readily available for demonstration purposes. The Section feels

honoured by his recognition, and an expression of regret at our loss was passed at the last annual meeting.

Two meetings have been held during the year and at each members had the advantage of listening to addresses from our President, Colonel Gifford. At the meeting in December, the subject of the address was 'The use of the Microscope,' and many valuable suggestions were made to enable workers to obtain the best definition with their instruments.

The meeting in March was held in the new Biological Laboratory of Taunton School, by kind invitation of the Council and Headmaster of the school. Members brought objects of interest, and Dr. Watson gave an address on some of the Infusoria.

During the year, several members of the Section have been of considerable assistance to the Somerset Beekeepers' Association, by giving instruction in the detection of bee diseases, but we have received no application for assistance from the Botanical or Entomological Sections, although we should be pleased to render what assistance lies within our power.

C. R. KILLICK.