

B.S.B.I. NEWS

Edited by J. E. ELSLEY

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PRESIDENT'S INTRODUCTION

Since I last wrote, the two highlights have indeed been the most gracious and wonderful reception accorded no less than 26 members of our Society by our Patron, the Queen Mother, and the Joint Conference with the R.H.S. Both these exceeded all expectations. Each is reported separately. Here I would do no more than thank warmly those concerned, especially Her Majesty, for all the arrangements. We are now thinking hard what the best form will be for our next Joint Conference. We agree in principle that we shall have another, and 1975 is at present envisaged. But there are various possibilities as to place and date, size and subjects.

The success of this Conference is both symptomatic of, and as a result of, another happy feature, the continued steady increase in membership. Mrs. Dony, on whom falls the brunt of the extra work this causes, tells me we had had no less than 270 new members up to 24th November. These we sincerely welcome — their names are in the Newsletters, and you will have been able to see they include some fine plantsmen — who should have joined long ago! And there are more like them to be brought in. So this must only spur us to reinforce success, above all those who have not yet recruited even their one new member.

This time last year we were heartened by the attendance, greater than ever, at our annual Exhibition Meeting. This year already we have had the Scottish Exhibition Meeting, and that attracted a record crowd. It was much the same in Dublin in September. The occasion was the biennial Recorders Conference. I was sorry that only four braved it from across St. George's Channel, for there are no politics and no risk in such a visit. But from our relatively small membership in Ireland, nearly 40 turned up, and their spirit was full of promise — a great preponderance of those much younger than I, and so many in the thick of active and useful work. Never has the future augured better for Irish botany, and we should do all we can to support it.

DAVID McCLINTOCK

EDITOR'S NOTE

We have been greatly encouraged by the material received for this issue of the Newsletter, but hope that still more members will be induced to "put pen to paper".

J. E. ELSLEY

R.H.S. Garden, Wisley, Ripley, Woking, Surrey

NOTES FROM SECRETARY

With the Autumn comes a new working season for the B.S.B.I. Committees, and since the last Newsletter all our Committees have met and tackled the varying projects which have come before them. In addition to organising the internal affairs of the Society, we are consulted on, and involved in, a number of issues on a wide front, reflecting the present general climate, alert to the natural world with concern for its conservation.

Recently I was asked if members were entitled to discount on botanical books. This led me to look again at pre-publication prices offered to members during 1972. The savings on these totalled £8.78. In addition to this, all B.S.B.I. publications are offered to members at 25% discount, so that good value for our subscription can be realised in this one field alone. (See also the offer on page 12).

MARY BRIGGS

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE NOTES

The Committee meets three times each year and there is never any shortage of vigorous discussion on what the Society has published or is publishing, or what it might or should publish in the future. The last meeting was a marathon session of over three hours which reflects the current spate of activity in this field.

Our journals have, we hope, settled down into a regular routine again after the upheavals of two or three years ago and the Committee is happy to leave them in the very competent hands of the editors. We do, however, run into trouble from time to time from members who regret the passing of the old *Proceedings* and complain that *Watsonia* is too dull or too high-powered. "Why can't we have the more readable articles we used to get in *Proceedings*?" they ask. The answer is quite simply that we can't get anybody to write them. The merging of our two journals was certainly not intended to do away with the more popular articles, and anything that would have been acceptable to *Proceedings* is certainly no less acceptable to the new *Watsonia*. The editors will, in fact, be very pleased to receive any such contributions, so don't feel that if your article doesn't reverberate with the latest unintelligible scientific jargon it won't be acceptable. Let us have some readable items of interest to everyone.

The first of the Society's proposed series of Handbooks was Jermy & Tutin's *British Sedges* which was so successful that it has already been reprinted and is available again. If you haven't got your copy yet order it from our agent, E. W. Classey Ltd., 353 Hanworth Road, Hampton, Middlesex. The next Handbook will probably be Mr. R. D. Meikle's work on Willows and Poplars which should be completed next year, and Mr. Dandy's book on Pondweeds should follow.

The *Atlas of the British Flora*, first published in 1962, is now out of stock, and plans are under way for it to be reprinted with sufficient addition of up-to-date information for it to be regarded as a second edition. About a quarter of the maps of the original publication will be completely re-plotted, covering the rarer species for which the editors feel they have adequately complete information. For the remainder of the maps any dots now known to be incorrect will be deleted, but no new dots will be added. The new edition should be ready for press early in 1973 and members will no doubt eagerly await its appearance.

Three other important publications are already in the pipe-line. The report of the recent highly successful joint B.S.B.I.-R.H.S. conference has been edited by Mr. P. S. Green and should be available in the early months of 1973. The vast amount of work summarising information on hybrids in the British Flora, which Dr. Clive Stace has been extracting from a large number of contributors over the last year or two, should be ready to go to press by Easter. And a list of recommended English names for wild plants, on which Miss Rob and Drs. Perring and Dony have spent so much time, should also be available.

R. K. BRUMMITT

RECORD COMMITTEE NOTES

Floras

There are two Floras which members may find interesting. The ms *Flora of Montgomery* is referred to on page 12.

The *Flowers of Iona* (V.C. 103) by Jean M. Millar is available for 25p from the Iona Community, 214, Clyde Street, Glasgow, G1 4TZ.

Recorders

The following were recently appointed as Vice-county Recorders:

- 17 Surrey: J. E. Lousley, 7 Penistone Road, London, S.W.16.
- 38 Warwickshire: D. J. Jeffray, 6 Balmoral Way, Cubbington, Leamington Spa.
- 73 Kirkcudbright: Mrs. O. M. Stewart, 14 Church Hill, Edinburgh.
- 74 Wigtownshire: H. K. C. Mair, Dalrymple Cottage, Stranraer.
- 96 Easternness: Miss E. R. T. Conacher, An Fharaid, Lawmarnock Road, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire.

Owing to death and resignation the following Vice-counties are now vacant:

- 10 Isle of Wight: 11 S. Hants; 12 N. Hants; 107 E. Sutherland.
- 108 W. Sutherland; H.39 Co. Antrim; H.40 Co. Down.

Referees and Specialists

The following have recently been appointed:

- Ranunculus hederaceus*: Prof. C. D. K. Cook, Botanischer Garten der Universtat, CH-8039, Zurich, Switzerland.
- Thalictrum*: Mrs. A. R. Perry, Botany Department, National Museum of Wales.
- Veronica*: P. Benoit, Pencarreg, Barmouth, Merioneth.

Because of the unfortunate death of Dr. D. P. Young vacancies now exist for *Oxalis* and *Epipactis*. If anyone would like to act for these two genera please write to me.

The Atlas of the British Flora

This is now out of print but the Society has reached agreement with the publishers, David & Charles, for a new edition to appear next year. All known errors will have been removed and maps of the 300 rarest species will be updated. There will be a republication offer to members in due course.

The growing interest amongst members in Aliens and Garden plants has led the Society to appoint referees in this field. The following have agreed to serve:

Garden Plants: D. McClintock

Aliens — general: J. E. Lousley, E. J. Clement

Bird-seed aliens: E. J. Clement, 13 Shelford, Burritt Road, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey.

„ „ „ : J. L. Mason, Bounday Hall, Tadley, Nr. Basingstoke, Hants.

„ (especially
grasses): T. B. Ryves, 44 Galsworthy Road, Kingston Hill, Surrey.

Please remember to send a S.A.E. for reply — and more stamps if you wish for the specimens to be returned.

FRANKLYN PERRING

BOOK NOTES

Among the books to be reviewed in the next part of *Watsonia* (Vol. 9(4)) are the following:—

Flora of Staffordshire, by E. S. Eedes.

Flora of Rutland, by Guy Messenger.

The Flora of the Isles of Scilly, by J. E. Lousely.

Phytochemical Ecology, edited by J. B. Harborne.

Thomas Johnson — Botanical Journeys in Kent and Hampstead, edited by J. S. L. Gilmour.

Illustrierte Flora — Deutschland und angrenzende Gebiete, by Garcke, 23rd edition, edited by K. von Weihe.

There is no need to point out to B.S.B.I. members the value of local Floras. The three listed above all follow the fine traditions that have been established by previous writers of such works, which now include the provision of dot maps on a grid system for each species. The value of these local Floras, however, is not confined to distributional data; they all contain much interesting and useful information about the vegetation in general and the influences (physiographic, geological, climatological, historical, etc.), that have made it what it is.

Books that have been received or noted and will, it is hoped, be reviewed soon in *Watsonia* include:—

- Guide du naturaliste dans les Alpes, by C. Favarger.
 Atlas de la flore Belge et Luxembourgeoise, by E. van Rompaey & L. Delvosalle.
 How Grasses Grow, by R. H. M. Langer.
 The Forests of Nepal, by J. D. A. Stainton.
 The Concise Flowers of Europe, by Oleg Polunin & Robin S. Wright.

In addition to those mentioned above, I should like to draw the attention of members to a book that, being the result of a conference of which the B.S.B.I. was a joint sponsor, would not normally be reviewed in *Watsonia*. I refer, of course, to:—

Taxonomy, Phytogeography and Evolution, edited by D. H. Valentine, Academic Press, (£7.20 Published Price).

It is crammed full of fascinating information on a large variety of topics covered by the three key words of the title, including under six sectional headings: I. Introduction; II. Major geographical disjunctions in relation to evolution and migration; III. Endemism; IV. Geographical evolution in genera and families of special interest; V. Special topics; VI. Discussion. The special topics considered in Sect. V. include three that have a direct bearing on the British flora:

Migration of Weeds (H. G. Baker), Comments on the History and Ecology of Continental European Plants (E. J. Jager), and Floristic Connections between South East England and North France (F. Rose); and members will find much elsewhere in the book to stimulate their interest, for example, a new idea about evolution by adaptation to more and less extreme habitats (G. L. Stebbins).

Finally, mention should be made of books received which, for one reason or another, will not be reviewed in *Watsonia*:—

The Bristol Flora, by J. W. White, Chatford House Press Ltd., Bristol, 1972 £6.25. (Reprint of 1912 work).

An All the Year Garden, by Margery Fish. David & Charles, Newton Abbot, new impression 1972.

Excelsa, Journal of the Aloe, Cactus and Succulent Society of Rhodesia. No. 1 (December 1971).

NORMAN K. B. ROBSON

PROFILE

JOHN CAMPBELL GARDINER

In 1957 the Council of the B.S.B.I. was faced with the difficult task of nominating a new Honorary Treasurer and decided to approach Mr. Gardiner. No member of the Council knew Mr. Gardiner personally so it was left to me as Honorary General Secretary at the time to ask him. He was on a business trip abroad, I think it was to West Africa, but Mrs. Gardiner thought he would consider our nomination favourably. I pointed out to Mr. Gardiner that, thanks to our previous Honorary Treasurers, Mr. J. E. Lousley and Mr. E. L. Swann, our finances were in a very sound position and we only needed to seek

an Honorary Treasurer who would keep our money affairs straight — he need not even be a botanist (how little did we know of Mr. Gardiner at that time!) and whilst further participation in our work would be more than welcome it was by no means an essential tied to the office of Treasurer.

It transpired that Jack, as many of us soon came to know him, was even more important in City affairs than we had realised and for my part I have never met anyone who spared himself so little and worked so hard. He has always been, however, the strictest of sabbatarians for on Sundays only would he cast aside the business affairs, the balance sheets, the take-over bids, to walk the country-side of the Home Counties. He expressed a great interest in the revision of the Hertfordshire Flora I was then making on a tetrad basis and volunteered to take over a tetrad provided it was near a railway station — the interesting truth was out that, although the director of companies closely connected with the motor industry, he himself does not drive a car (he explains this by claiming that in his younger days he preferred horses!) At the end of the year he returned a record card with the incredibly large number of 293 records, only one of which I doubted could be there — I made a visit only to find he was right and I was wrong. The Society had found not only a financial genius but a very competent field botanist. Mr. Gardiner's "crib" full of useful hints on identification and his notebooks so meticulously compiled are surely worthy of publication.

Mr. Gardiner was born in India in 1905 where his father was serving with the Royal Engineers. There were several generations of military tradition in the family so, with an army career in view, he was educated at Wellington College. Not altogether to his disappointment this had to be abandoned when, at the end of his schooldays, there was suspicion of a minor physical defect which was subsequently found to have no foundation. His own preference for an academic scientific training and career had to be set aside for financial reasons (his father having been killed in action in 1914) and he trained as a chartered accountant. After qualifying in 1928 he soon became a partner in Jenks, Percival, Pidgeon & Co., where he remained (with secondment to the Ministry of Food during the war) until 1959, when Sir Charles Clore persuaded him to become the chief executive director of Sears Holdings Limited, with which group he had been closely associated in a professional capacity for some years previously. He recently retired from this position, feeling strongly that younger management was an essential for future progress.

In the fourteen years he was Honorary Treasurer — a record period for the tenure of one office in the post-war years of the Society — Mr. Gardiner threw himself heart and soul into B.S.B.I. affairs rarely missing a meeting of council or its many committees. One felt at times that the British Shoe Corporation, Mappin and Webb, Selfridges and the rest stood still for an hour or so to allow us to leap forward. He was a driving force in the fight to try and save Upper Teesdale, in the move to change the format of our publications and in persuading University departments to be more actively concerned in what we were trying to do. It was natural that others should also seek his services and advice. He became a Fellow of the Linnean Society and was soon elected to its council. He became especially active in the work of the Surrey Flora Committee for after all Surrey is without doubt his favourite county near to London. This latter involvement led him soon to become even more interested in bryophytes than in higher plants, for his Sunday excursions are in winter and summer alike and in all weathers. Needless to say it was not long before he was a member of the council of the British Bryological Society.

There must be hundreds of botanists who during these past fifteen years have been grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Gardiner for their warm hospitality. Mrs. Gardiner (Wendy) has joined her husband on so many of those Sunday tramps but their greatest co-operative ventures are their walking holidays especially in Scotland which they both love so much — no Costa Brava for them! Mrs. Gardiner is a most skilled violinist and it can be no surprise that they met through a common interest in music. They have two daughters and a son.

It was to our regret that Mr. Gardiner's retirement from the full-time affairs of business meant his retirement as our Honorary Treasurer. He wisely sought a break from our affairs, but we now welcome him back as a Vice-President, an office in which we trust the Society may continue to have the benefit of his wide experience and knowledge.

JOHN G. DONY

NEWS FROM REGIONS

C.S.S.F. Inverness-shire Survey

The 1972 field season was easily the most productive of plant records for the Survey so far; the Committee would like to thank all those who worked to achieve this result.

During 1973 it is anticipated that the centres of field activity will be at Lochailort, Tomatin, Newtonmore and Invermoriston; details of the arrangements will be published in the C.S.S.F. Field Programme for 1973.

Members are reminded that the organisers will welcome records of Inverness-shire plants obtained by examining herbaria, or extracted from private or published sources.

R. MACKECHNIE

Committee for the Study of the Scottish Flora

The following is a brief outline of an article on the Exhibition Meeting and Soirée held on 4th November, 1972 by the Committee for the Study of the Scottish Flora.

The exhibition was set up in the new Boyd Orr building, by kind permission of Professor Wilkins and the University Court. A fine number of B.S.B.I. members mostly resident in Scotland attended, some had travelled considerable distances. The meeting was chaired by Mr. R. Mackechnie.

There were 23 exhibits, including two professional ones from Glasgow and Edinburgh Universities. 85 members and friends heard a lecture by Mr. P. W. James of the British Museum on a survey of the Isle of Mull. The meeting concluded with a buffet supper and a viewing of transparencies taken at Scottish Field Meetings this year.

Miss E. R. T. CONACHER

(A very full report of this meeting was received from Miss Conacher but it arrived after the copy had gone to print — Editor).

The Castle of Mey, 17th August, 1972

When, some time before the Dunnet meeting, the members of the party were given notice that the Queen Mother, Patron of the Society, hoped "to see something of our activities", each would make his own forecast of the probable course of events. Few would be close to the actuality.

Our cavalcade of cars made the short journey from the Dunnet Hotel in mid-afternoon; upstairs, in the Castle drawing-room, our hostess waited to receive us. When the introductions, the only really formal part of the visit, were over, the surprises began. The Queen Mother led the way to the adjoining room, where the table was laid for what we in Scotland call "afternoon tea"; the term is often a euphemism. As we might have expected, the repast on this occasion was of regal proportions and must have been an eye-opener to some of the party, coming from south of the border. So we had cause for thankfulness that no very strenuous after-tea activity seemed to be indicated. In fact, when the meal was at length over, a leisurely walk round the Castle garden occupied us pleasantly for most of the next half hour.

The garden at Mey contains in wide variety both decorative and useful plants; it is well furnished with hedges, a necessity for any garden on this breezy north coast, and so perhaps seems larger than its actual size. Clearly, our Patron takes a real pleasure in her garden, and is delighted to show it off.

When the tour was over, we assumed that the visit too would come to an end. But the major surprise was still to come; asked "would we like to see the Oyster Plant on the shore?", we recovered from the shock quickly enough to accept the offer with pleasure. A short interval while the Queen Mother donned a stouter pair of shoes and a weather-proof jacket; then, with the hat more firmly anchored to the head, she briskly led the way to the beach. This was some two field-lengths away; the appointed leaders of the meeting, temporarily relegated to the ranks, accepted their loss of status with good grace.

At the beach-head a small but thriving colony of *Mertensia maritima* was promptly located, duly admired and much photographed; the occasion, it proved, was a "lifer" for a few of the party. Disdaining the transport laid on for the return journey, the Leader conducted her party back to the Castle on foot; then followed a brief look at some of the more noteworthy plants, picked on the previous days. Then, the final farewells said, the cars moved slowly along the driveway, with mutual hand-waving from car windows and castle steps; it was over.

This day, which had begun with a visit to a Caithness fen and continued with a look at Dick's Herbarium, ended, for the more enduring, at a ceilidh in Thurso. A day to remember; we who were there shall never need reminding of it.

R. MACKECHNIE

Conference on Horticulture and Field Botany

A highly successful experiment was the joint week-end conference held by the B.S.B.I. and the R.H.S. on 2nd and 3rd September, 1972 in the R.H.S. New Hall at Vincent Square. The theme of the conference gave everyone a chance to find something of interest, and this was reflected in the enormous response and so, unfortunately, we had to turn away many applicants because of the limitation in the size of the lecture room.

The topics covered included general botanical and horticultural problems of nomenclature and conservation, papers on individual groups of plants of interest to both the

field botanist and the gardener, as well as discussions on the rôle of the various centres in the plant world. Perhaps the most pertinent was the one entitled "And never the twain shall meet (Horticulture and Botany — allies, not enemies)", given by Mr. J. S. L. Gilmour which, although one of the first lectures, aptly summed up the situation in which botanists and horticulturists are too keen to argue instead of co-operating. For those of us with feet in both camps, life may become slightly uncomfortable, but this Conference showed how easy it is for both sides to come together amicably and how much good can emerge from such an encounter.

In the hall were several exhibits, some simply illustrating an individual paper, while others were of general botanical interest. Messrs. Hillier and Sons, of Winchester, set up a display of cultivars of native trees and shrubs, and the staff of Wisley Garden prepared a water garden of native species and their cultivated forms grown in this country.

Lunch and coffee breaks gave everyone a chance to mix and at the Conference Dinner, the guest speaker, Mrs. Frances Perry, gave a most interesting talk, including personal reminiscences of the late E. A. Bowles and Amos Perry.

After such an enjoyable and fruitful meeting of these two important societies, perhaps we can now look forward to a similar joint venture in the not too distant future.

DIANA M. STAPLES

SHORT NOTES

Polystichum x illyricum: A HYBRID NEW TO THE BRITISH ISLES.

We are pleased to report here the discovery of a herbarium specimen of *Polystichum x illyricum* (Borbás) Hayek (= *P. aculeatum* (L.) Roth x *P. lonchitis* (L.) Roth.) from the west of Ireland. This hybrid, which is common and widespread in the mountainous parts of continental Europe, has not been previously recorded from anywhere in the British Isles. This specimen was discovered in the herbarium of the National Botanic Gardens in Dublin (DBN), and it consists of two very fine mature fronds, which were collected in August, 1932 by R. Lloyd Praeger, from cliffs at the south side of Glenade, County Leitrim. It was growing together with *P. lonchitis*. A full report of this discovery will appear in the British Fern Gazette [10(5), 1972].

ANNE SLEEP, University of Leeds.

DONAL SYNNOTT, National Botanic Gardens Dublin.

Ferns stimulated by artificial light

On September 9th, 1972, I went down the Blue John Mine at Castleton, Derbys. The mine, a series of passages and caverns, descending through carboniferous limestone, is open to the public daily throughout the summer, and in winter is worked for the mineral. Eleven years ago electric lighting was installed, since when ferns have appeared in close proximity to the lights wherever the rock surface is damp enough for them to grow. I saw *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Asplenium scolopendrium*, *A. trichomanes*, and *Cystopteris fragilis* at various levels of the descent, and by the light at the lowest point to which the ordinary visitor may go, there was a green growth on the rock-face, presumably a moss or lichen. This is some 200 ft. below the mine entrance. During the summer, at any rate, there is probably about eight hours of illumination daily. The ferns were, of course, all young plants. They were a good colour and looked extremely healthy.

KATHLEEN HOLLICK

MEMBERS' DESIDERATA

"Double Flowers"

Mrs. D. J. Reynolds, M.Sc., of Woodside, Brook Road, Wormley, Godalming, Surrey, writes:—

"I am collecting information about the occurrence and fertility of double flowers (those showing more than the normal number of petals expected in the species), and I would be most grateful for details of any wild flowers exhibiting the phenomenon of extra petals or of petal-like structures which might grow from the stamens, giving the appearance of doubleness. The name, location and frequency of the plant and any information about the fruits or seeds would be most useful to me."

Rare British Plants in cultivation

The B.S.B.I. is co-operating with Botanic Gardens in setting up banks of living plant material of the 300 or so rare British plants listed in *Watsonia* 9, 1972 pps. 69-72. A preliminary survey has shown that 112 of these species are already in cultivation, but it seems possible that others are being grown in private gardens.

If you have any of the species listed from known wild British sources would you please complete one of the BRC pink Individual Record Cards using the front for details of the origin of the material as far as known and the back to state:—

- (i) Name and address of garden
- (ii) Quantity of material
- (iii) Whether available as cutting or as seed.

Send the completed card to Dr. F. H. Perring, Biological Records Centre, Monks Wood Experimental Station, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon, PE17 2LS, who will gladly supply cards and instructions to those without.

Widdybank Fell — alias Cow Green, in 1972

Five years have passed since the Society and others waged war against big industry and the Water Board over Upper Teesdale. In autumn 1970 the dam was completed and, with the filling of the reservoir, most of the scars of construction have been hidden from view. Even below the dam, grasses have colonised the peat which was tipped over the old Birkdale road. The noise and smell of diesel fumes and dust are gone. Throughout the construction period minimum damage was done to the communities above top water level. A car park and picnic area with access to the water has been constructed outside the National Nature Reserve which now includes Widdybank Fell. A nature trail guides visitors to Cauldron Snout.

Since 1967 some thirty research projects have been initiated in Upper Teesdale. Over two-thirds are financed by the I.C.I. Teesdale Trust. Two of these utilise voluntary help — amateur botanists and others — in summer Field Weeks (bring your mac. and woollies!), to map the distribution of rare plants on the Fell and to record changes in the vegetation near the reservoir. Helpers are needed for 1973, June 30th to July 7th, July 21st to 28th and July 29th to August 4th. Further details from Dr. M. E. Bradshaw, Department of Extra-Mural Studies, The University, 34 Old Elvet, Durham. (s.a.e.).

MARGARET E. BRADSHAW

FLORAS

MS. Flora of Montgomeryshire

The Department of Botany, National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, has two manuscript volumes of "Materials for a Flora of Montgomeryshire. Being the records made by J. A. Webb in the shire during part of 1939 and 1941 and practically the whole of 1940. Specimens sent to the National Museum confirmed by A. E. Wade, F.L.S."

Some of the more interesting of these records were published in the North Western Naturalist, 18, 52 - 68 (1943). The MS as a whole is a valuable contribution to knowledge of the flora of Montgomeryshire and would be very useful to anyone contemplating the compilation of a Flora of the county. It was found recently that one of the volumes had faded badly. The faded writing of this volume was deciphered laboriously by Mrs. O. Evans and a copy typed in duplicate. The other volume, which had not faded very much, was photocopied. We now have a spare copy of the complete work available for lending to anyone who is interested.

S. G. HARRISON

A Flora of Cambridgeshire (1964) by Perring, Sell, Walters and Whitehouse.

The Society has bought the remaining stock of this standard Flora from C.U.P. Hardback versions (£1.13½, post paid) and paper-backs (88½p, post paid) are available from Dr. F. H. Perring, Oundle Lodge, Oundle, Peterborough, PE8 5TN. Please make cheques payable to Dr. Perring. As the supply of hardbacks is limited, please state if you will accept a paper-back as an alternative.

FRANKLYN PERRING

Taraxacum Flora of the British Isles

The following corrections should be made to the Spectabilia key:—

- p.18 dichotomy 4: for 15 read 17
- p.18 dichotomy 5: for 9 read 10
- p.19 dichotomy 26: for 27 read 28; for 28 read 27.

DR. G. H. HALLIDAY

LETTERS

Drifts,
Chinnor Hill,
Oxford.

Dear Mr. Elsley,

In your last B.S.B.I. News you published a letter from Mr. Ward of the Surrey Trust saying that eight *Epipogium* were picked at the main Bucks. site last year. I have written to Mr. Ward, but so far with no reply, to find out if he has first-hand evidence for this statement. He may not realise how vulnerable *Epipogium* is to slugs. I find it hard to believe there are many people who would be able to find, let alone pick, *Epipogium* eight times. Can you suggest any way in which I can verify this statement, which is naturally of importance to those of us charged with protecting *Epipogium*?

Incidentally, you may like to know that we are still suffering severely from the activities of photographers at the main Military Orchid site in Bucks. They now climb our fence and continue to crush the young plants in their efforts to photograph the flowering ones. We shall obviously have to take some very drastic steps to deal with this, but it is disgraceful that botanical photographers should force us to spend hard-won conservation money, badly needed elsewhere, to stop their selfish and undisciplined behaviour. Any publicity you can give to this problem will be most welcome.

RICHARD FITTER
President, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Naturalists' Trust

16, Wayfarer Drive,
East Gascote,
Leicester,
LE7 8QZ.

Dear Sir,

Though I find myself in agreement with the majority of correspondents on the subject of "popularising" the B.S.B.I., I feel that I must comment upon C. W. Ward's remark about the R.S.P.B. tie ("not that we want that"). My normal neckwear is the tie of the R.S.P.B., the B.T.O., or the Wildfowl Trust. These simple articles of clothing have often solicited comments, and, later, membership fees, from people interested in birds.

I suggest that the same may apply to a B.S.B.I. tie. There are, I feel, many thousands of amateur naturalists who have never heard of the Society. The sales, in addition, would help to swell the B.S.B.I. coffers.

R. A. N. CROUCHER
Local representative (Leicester) for the R.S.P.B.

(What motif would readers suggest?—Editor).

30, Harrowden Road,
Wellingborough,
Northants.,
NN8 3BH.

Dear Sir,

I was very sorry to see no letters in the last issue of the News; I hope this excellent feature will not go by default on the part of members. Might I suggest one possible extra feature, viz., members' adverts. I would like to obtain a copy of Druce's Flora of Northamptonshire — any offers?

Is there a member somewhere collecting data on abnormal forms of plants? I quite often run into unusual specimens such as *Anagallis arvensis* with 6 perianth lobes; *Epilobium montanum*, *Valeriana officinalis* and *Stellaria media*, all with 3 leaves in each

whorl, and various species with white flowers which are never mentioned in the books. I am sure others meet such little treasures, most of which get lost for the want of someone to share them with.

Finally, can anyone refer me to a supplier of good wall-charts of British plants, etc? Perhaps this is one way the B.S.B.I. could get publicity for itself and some cash too!

S. L. M. KARLEY

- (1. Mr. D. H. Kent of 75 Adelaide Road, W.13, has for long undertaken to search for books members need—and still does.
2. 330 albinos are listed in Mr. McClintock's "Supplement" — now out of print, and he notes the existence of another 40 on page 120 of his "Companion to Flowers" — Editor).

THE LINESIDE VEGETATION OF RAILWAYS

My investigation of the railway flora of Rutland which was reported in B.S.B.I. Proceedings 7.3 (1968), left a number of questions unanswered regarding the maintenance of a more or less stable floristic pattern by means of periodic burning and scrub clearance. This summer I visited two of the half dozen or so Railways of standard gauge which are privately owned and operated by Railway Preservation Societies and had friendly and constructive discussions with senior members of their respective managements on the possibility of carrying out long term studies of the effects of differing treatments of the lineside vegetation. I hope to visit one other before the end of 1972, and the rest next year.

I have already started to prepare species lists for

- (a) NORTH NORFOLK RAILWAY (Sheringham — Weybourne)
- (b) KEIGHLEY & WORTH VALLEY RAILWAY

The other lines to be visited are

- (c) SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY (Bridgenorth)
- (d) DART VALLEY RAILWAY
- (e) NORTH YORKSHIRE MOORS RAILWAY (Goathland)
- (f) BLUEBELL RAILWAY (Sussex).

Others will be added to the list as they become operational.

I hope very much that it will not only be possible to add materially to our knowledge of this very interesting kind of man-made habitat, but that as a result we may be able to advise the Railway Societies on questions of lineside management.

I should be very glad to hear from members who have any species lists or other information which might be useful about the lines listed.

K. G. MESSENGER

(The West Wales Naturalists Trust has produced an excellent booklet entitled "Vale of Rheidol", describing what can be seen by passengers from the line on the narrow gauge railway from Aberystwyth—Editor.)

SIR JOSEPH BANKS'S BRITISH HERBARIUM

It is known that Joseph Banks was already interested in plants and animals when he was a schoolboy at Eton, and it is probable that he had started making both botanical and zoological collections before he went up to Oxford. The first letter in the Dawson Turner copies at the British Museum (Natural History) of Banks's correspondence is from the Rev. John Lightfoot (1735-1788), author of the *Flora Scotica*. Lightfoot had taken his first degree at Oxford before Banks matriculated there in 1760, but did not take his M.A. until 1766. The letter shows that by this time Banks and Lightfoot were already close friends. It begins:

"Dear Sir,

When Pythagoras discovered his golden proposition he is said to have run about the street like a Madman, crying out in ecstasies "Eureka, Eureka": I had like to have done the same when I open'd your Letter & saw Banks at the Bottom of it. I have been in London for two Months past, except on Sundays; and not one of our Botanical Acquaintances could give me the least Intelligence of you. I began to be afraid that you had taken a Freak and gone to botanise on the Banks of the River Styx, or in the Elysian Fields . . ." Lightfoot goes on to thank Banks for specimens, and then sends him a list of desiderata, suggesting that Banks should do the same to him. The letter ends "Be so kind as to let me know when you are in Town; or when you can favour me with a Visit, & you will render entirely happy your sincere Friend and Brother Philobot.

John Lightfoot"

In a later volume of the Dawson Turner series we find that in October 1787, William Withering, a man two years older than Banks, wrote to him thus:

"Sir,

Following, though at a humble distance, in that path of Science in which you so conspicuously lead the way, I presume to solicit your acceptance of the enclosed Volumes (*A Botanical Arrangement of all the Vegetables naturally growing in Great Britain*), as a small addition to your immense collection on the same subject. It was the inspection of your British Herbarium, when deposited many years ago at the house of our friend Sneyd at Bishton (while Banks was away on the Endeavour voyage), which first aided and determined my purpose in this branch of Science; so that you have a sort of right to that which had probably never existed but for your previous labours.

I remain, Sir, with the greatest respect,
Your very obedient servant,
W. Withering."

Banks's correspondence with T. A. Knight (1759-1838) is recorded from 1795 to 1819. The 95 letters abstracted in the Warren Dawson calendar of Banksian papers (1959) cover a wide range of botanical subjects. Other letters from his numerous botanical friends refer to plants they are sending him or have received from him, and a student of these papers gains a clear impression of Banks's deep interest in British plants and that he had

built up a very extensive British Herbarium. We find too that Banks was amassing materials for a history of Lincolnshire, and it seems impossible that he should have failed to make a careful survey of the flora of his home county. On Banks's death his collections were left to Robert Brown and through him to the British Museum, where there are now only some four hundred Banksian sheets in the British Herbarium. What has happened to the remainder?

In the *Index Herbariorum*, *Index of Collectors* it is indicated that Banks's British specimens are at the British Museum, the Manchester Museum and in Paris. However there is no record at Manchester that they have ever had specimens; Paris has a certain number scattered through their general collection, probably resulting from casual exchanges between Banks and his French colleagues. We know that Sneyd borrowed Banks's herbarium for five years from 1768, and that Banks had to ask for its return in 1773, long after his arrival back in England at the conclusion of Cook's first circumnavigation. Was the collection again lent to a botanist engaged in the preparation of another Flora? In view of the great changes in the British flora since Banks's day, and because so many County Floras are now in course of preparation, it would be of considerable interest if the rest of Banks's British Herbarium could be traced. Any reader who may come across Banks specimens, or any reference to them, is asked to let us know, no matter how trivial the information may seem in isolation.

A. M. LYSAGHT
J. F. M. CANNON
Department of Botany
British Museum (Natural History)

Catalogue of the late Dr. E. F. Warburg's *Euphrasia* Collection

At the request of the Curator of the Herbaria at the Botany School, Oxford, I examined during the winter of 1971-2 the collection of *Euphrasia* made by Dr. Warburg, who was for many years actively interested in the genus, and who contributed the account of it in "C.T.W."

The collection comprised 302 sheets, most of them collected by Dr. Warburg himself, but some of them representing Exchange Club material or specimens sent to him for naming in more recent years. As the collection covers a wide spread of vice-counties, from 1 to H28, and is quite an interesting one, I suggested to Mr. F. White, the present Curator, that a catalogue might be prepared and copies made available to those who asked to receive them. He readily agreed to this suggestion, and the catalogue can now be had by application to him at the Botany School, South Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3RA. It will be of interest mainly, I think, to those concerned with county lists. Vice-counties that are strongly represented are 24, 46, 88, 94, 96, 105, 110 and 112. The Hebridean collection (v.c. 110) is far less complete than that at the British Museum (Natural History), under the names of Warburg, Willmott, Campbell and Heslop-Harrison.

Those who receive the list will notice that Dr. Warburg had left unaltered many of the determinations on Exchange Club specimens, and had made only tentative determinations of many of his own specimens. One can assume, however, that he knew that some of the former were wrong, and that his determinations of the latter would have been more definite had he not felt that he would be able to go over them again from time to time.

P. F. YEO

THE BUTSER ANCIENT FARM PROJECT

Experimental Agriculture of Rarer Weeds

In connection with the Butser Ancient Farm Project of the British Council for Archaeology cereals are to be grown on a chalk site in Hampshire in the ancient manner without the use of fertilisers, pesticides etc. This, it is felt, gives a unique opportunity to have a "living museum" or "bank" of some of our disappearing British weeds of arable land many of which in the past have been associated with cornfields on chalk or limestone and many of which are now approaching extinction through the use of modern agricultural techniques.

It is hoped to establish as many as possible of the rarer species on this ancient farm and for this purpose seed is required. We therefore appeal to all botanists who can obtain seed of the rarer cornfield weed species, particularly those associated with chalk, to send them in individual packets labelled with details of origin to the address below.

The whole work will be conducted on the strictest scientific lines and the results will be published from time to time.

PETER J. REYNOLDS, M.A., Director,
The Butser Ancient Farm Project, Rogate House, Rogate, Petersfield, Hampshire.

EXHIBITION MEETING 1972

The Natural History Museum in Kensington was the centre of attraction to botanists from all over the country on November 25th when once again the Society held its Annual Exhibition in the Department of Botany. Over 250 members and friends attended to see the wide range of subjects covered by the 34 exhibits. In complete contrast to last year there was not one single exhibit devoted to alien plants in this country, the most frequent theme this year being progress reports on various mapping schemes and floras. It was interesting to compare the different methods of mapping and organisation of these schemes but when it came to organisation the display on the editorial set-up for *Flora Europaea* left one full of admiration.

Exhibits on *Carex muricata* agg. and the *Vicia sativa* complex were of personal interest, as they helped elucidate problems that I had been struggling with during the year. But with exhibits on books, plants new and refound, historical plants, fossils, taxonomic problems, drawings, photographs, postage stamps and even plants on sugar packets there was something of interest for all tastes. Many visitors derived considerable pleasure in the comprehensive range of photographs depicting various aspects of the visit to the Castle of Mey during the Dunnet Field Meeting in August. Another very pleasing exhibit was a chart to show that the membership was now at its highest level in the history of the Society.

In the latter part of the afternoon seven members showed colour slides in the Lecture Hall that ranged in subject area from Dorset, Durham and Scotland on to Spain, Yugoslavia and Uganda. The meeting was concluded with the *Conversazione* which continued until 9.00 p.m., which about 100 members and guests attended.

E. G. PHILP

NEW MEMBERS

(July—October, 1972)

Ordinary Members (British Isles)

- Mrs. S. M. Adams, Dept. of Botany, The University, Manchester, M13 9PL.
 N. F. Addison, 17, Wilberforce House, York Road, Battersea, London, S.W.11.
 Mrs. P. Appelmans, "Ravenmorrow", West Drive, Wentworth Estate, Virginia Water, Surrey.
 L. W. Beer, Botanic Garden, University College North, Bangor, Caernarvonshire.
 S. H. Bishop, 194, Markfield Road, Ratby, Leics.
 K. R. Blackhurst, Whitebreads Farm, Stane Street, Slinfold, Horsham, Sussex.
 Dr. K. W. Bolt, 27, Plaistow Crescent, St. Budeaux, Plymouth, Devon.
 Mrs. J. E. Bowden, 53, Crouch Hall Lane, Redbourn, St. Albans, Herts.
 W. D. Bowden, 268, Northdown Road, Cliftonville, Margate, Kent.
 D. Bromley, 85 Blackberry Lane, Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire.
 Miss G. Buckman, 23, Redcliffe Road, London, S.W.10.
 Miss P. F. Cammell, Nethercott, Gt. Barton, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk.
 T. R. Cass, Sandes Soldiers' Home, Pirbright Camp, Brunswick Road, Brookwood, Woking, Surrey.
 Mrs. P. J. Chalkley, Island View, Fort Warden Road, Colwell Bay, Freshwater, Isle of Wight.
 A. S. Chamberlain, 8, Second Avenue, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, KT12 2HW.
 D. D. Chesterman, 109, Taybridge Road, Battersea, London, S.W.11.
 J. B. Churcher, 16, Kent Grove, Fareham, Hants, PO16 9HB.
 Mrs. G. E. Clark, 33, Duck Street, Egginton, Derby, DE6 6HG.
 Mrs. G. M. Cleall, 6, Field Way, Wivenhoe, Colchester, Essex.
 A. M. Clevely, c/o 43, Monmouth Road, Smethwick, Warley, Worcs.
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 Miss C. A. Crooks, Oak Bank, 2, Grasmere Close, Merrow, Guildford, Surrey.
 A. J. Crossley, 4, Martin Rise, Bexleyheath, Kent, DA6 8NB.
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 A. W. Dymond, 145, Raeburn Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey, KT5 9DD.
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 E. Farwell, 1, Windermere Crescent, Weymouth, Dorset.
 A. Ferry, Salesian School, Blaisdon Hall, Blaisdon, Longhope, Glos., GL17 0AQ.
 Mrs. M. H. Fitzgerald, Thresher's Dean, Headley, Epsom, Surrey.
 Miss I. Foster, 10, Back Lane West, Royston, Barnsley, Yorkshire, S71 4SB.
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 Dr. Sylvia D. Gardner, 6, Castle Hill, Berkhamsted, Herts.
 J. P. Gill, 45, St. Piran's Avenue, Copnor, Portsmouth, Hants.
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 Dr. J. D. Hopton, 4, Rathmoyle Park West, Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim.
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 Mrs. W. E. Hutton, Longacre, Beckbury, Shifnal, Shropshire.
 W. R. Impey, Friston Lodge, Ourwood, Redhill, Surrey, RH1 5PN.
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 G. Jowett, Flat 2, Barwythe Hall, Studham, Dunstable, Beds.

- C. Juleff, 7, St. Georges Hill, Perranporth, Cornwall.
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 Miss A. V. Lamb, 35, Coles Road, Milton, Cambridge, CB4 4BL.
 C. H. B. Locke, 8, Glen View, Kildrum, Cumbernauld, Glasgow, G67 2DA.
 Mrs. H. Loukes, 129, Kennington Road, Kennington, Oxford, OX1 5PE.
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 Miss A. M. MacLellan, Dept. of Botany, University of Aberdeen, St. Machar Drive, Old Aberdeen, AB9 2UD.
 Mrs. S. L. Mair, 17, Fawcett Street, London, S.W.10.
 Miss J. Martin, 95, Queen Street, Castle Douglas, Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, D67 1EH.
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 Mrs. M. Parkinson, Town House, Woodbury, Exeter, Devon, EX5 1NE.
 P. J. Payne, Hudnall Park Environmental Studies Centre, St. Margarets Lane, Little Gaddesden, Berkhamsted, Herts.
 L. W. Pearson, 116, Wilmot Road, Dartford, Kent.
 Miss N. A. M. Pelling, 7, Braybrooke Terrace, Hastings, Sussex.
 A. E. Pettit, Dromore, Swinley Road, Ascot, Berkshire.
 Mrs. P. I. Philcox, James House, Perry Hill, Cliffe, Rochester, Kent.
 Mrs. B. G. Philibert, 36, Palace Green, Addington, Surrey, CR0 9AG.
 Mrs. P. N. Philp, Anvil House, Hook Norton, Banbury, Oxon.
 Dr. J. B. Phipps, c/o Dept. of Botany, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh.
 R. Piper, 12c, Notting Hill, Malone Road, Belfast 9.
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 A. G. Prue, 4, Gerard Road, Weston-Super-Mare, Somerset.
 Mrs. C. E. Shepherd, Woodfield, Priory Close, Chislehurst, Kent, BR7 5LB.
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 Mrs. G. Williams, Kins-Haven, St. Georges Hill, Easton-in-Gordano, Bristol.
 Mrs. D. I. Wilson, 23, Furrows Place, Caterham, Surrey, CR3 5EH.
 J. Winham, 74, Mackenzie Road, Thetford, Norfolk.
 B. E. Winscom, 128, Coombe Lane, Croydon, Surrey, CR0 5RF.

Junior Members

- Miss N. J. Burston, 26, The Ridgeway, Down End, Fareham, Hants.
 Miss J. Y. Crabtree, Green Lea, Caldene, Mytholmroyd, Yorkshire.
 K. W. Davis, "Frensham", White Post Lane, Cobham, Gravesend, Kent, DA13 9AX.
 Miss H. C. Gauty, Horton Cottage, Horton, Wimborne, Dorset.
 Miss P. Gillhespy, 5, Middleknights Hill, Gadebridge, Hemel Hempstead, Herts.
 Miss V. Hewison, 10, Dwarwick Court, Mount Vernon, Thurso, Caithness.
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 N. S. Wood, "Woodpeckers", Cutty Lane, North Cadbury, Yeovil, Somerset.

Family Members

- D. J. Adams, Dept. of Botany, The University, Manchester, M13 9PL.
 Mrs. K. W. Bolt, 27, Plaistow Crescent, St. Budeaux, Plymouth, Devon.
 H. M. Goodman, Hillfield House, Eldersfield, Nr. Gloucester.
 J. D. S. Martin, Old Bank House, Lochmaben, Dumfriesshire, DG11 1PD.
 Mrs. F. H. Perring, Oundle Lodge, Oundle, Peterborough, PE8 5TN.

Subscriber Members

The Library, An Foras Forbartha, Teoranta, St. Martins House, Waterloo Road, Dublin 4, Irish Republic.

Horticultural Training Centre, (The Secretary), Dartington Hall Trust, Totnes, Devon, TQ9 6EN. The High School, London Road, Wellingborough, Northants.

Hants County Museum Service (The Director), Chilcomb House, Chilcomb Lane, Bar End, Winchester, Hants.

Letchworth Museum and Art Gallery (The Curator), Broadway, Letchworth, Herts.

Overseas (Ordinary Member)

J. T. Waterhouse, School of Botany, University of New South Wales, Box 1, P.O., Kensington, N.S.W. 2033, Australia.

Mrs. J. G. DONY
(Honorary Membership Secretary)

Botanical Society of the British Isles, c/o Department of Botany, British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London, S.W.7.
