

BRITISH LICHEN SOCIETY

President: A. E. Wade, M.Sc., F.L.S.

BULLETIN 16 September 1965.

Autumn Meeting at Stamford, 1965

Attention is again drawn to this meeting which will be held from Friday evening 29 October until Sunday afternoon 31 October 1965. Full details are given in Bulletin 15. The weekend will provide an opportunity for members to study the lichen flora of this lichenologically-neglected part of England, which provides an interesting contrast to Highland Britain, where the majority of the Society's field meetings are held.

Nominations for Officers and Council

Nominations for Officers for 1966 should be sent to the Secretary, Mr. J.R. Laundon, Department of Botany, British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London, S.W.7., before 31 December 1965. Nominations for Council Members for 1967-68 should reach the Secretary by this same date. Professor D.G. Catcheside, Dr. C.G. Dobbs and Mr. J.W. Sheard retire as Council Members.

Annual General, Lecture and Exhibition Meeting, 8 January 1966

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 8 January 1966 at 11.0 a.m. on the second floor of the Department of Chemistry and Biology, The Polytechnic, 309 Regent Street, London, W.1., by kind courtesy of Dr. C. W. Hyde, Head of the Department.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting.
2. Matters arising.
3. Reports of the Secretary, Treasurer, and other officers.
4. Election of Officers.
5. Election of Auditor.
6. Election of three members of the Council in place of those retiring in rotation in accordance with Rule 8.
7. Place and dates of Autumn Meeting, 1966.
8. Place and dates of Annual General, Spring and Summer Meetings 1967.
9. Other business.

J. R. Laundon,
Honorary Secretary.

The Lecture and Exhibition Meeting will be held from 2-5 p.m. in the same building. Members are asked to make a special effort to contribute exhibits of specimens or other material relevant to lichenology. The lectures will be as follows:

3.0 p.m. F. H. BRIGHTMAN, B.Sc. Some patterns of distribution of lichens in southern England.

4.0 p.m. C.G. DOBBS, Ph.D. The Phycotrophic Fungi.

Anyone wishing to give short talks or show slides following Dr. Dobbs' lecture should inform the Secretary.

Easter Excursion to Jersey, Wednesday 6 April to Wednesday 13 April 1966.

The Société Jersiaise has offered us the facilities of its headquarters at the Museum in St. Helier, including the use of a laboratory. The accommodation listed below has been chosen because it is near the Museum. The prices quoted are from 1965 Official Jersey Accommodation List, and may alter slightly next year, as may British Rail and B.E.A. fares.

Members should book their accommodation as soon as possible, as the smaller places may get filled up early; also please complete the attached slip as soon as accommodation has been arranged so that the Société Jersiaise can be informed how large our party will be, and arrangements for transport on the Island can be made.

Trains leave Waterloo at approximately 8.0 a.m. and connect with the boat that reaches St. Helier at 7.30 p.m. There are several day flights by B.E.A. both from London (Gatwick) and London (Heathrow).

Midweek rail and boat fare: £6.17.0 return.
Midweek air fare: £10.8.0 return.

2nd Register Hotel: Full Board:

The Chelséa, Gloucester Street. 60 single rooms, 94 double rooms.
£8.1.0 to £13.6.0 Service charge 10%.

Guest Houses: Dinner, Bed and Breakfast.

"Shyann", 22 Pier Road. 7 double rooms. £8.8.0 to £8.18.6.
No service charge.

"Taunton", 15 Gloucester Street. 2 single rooms, 6 double rooms.
£7.7.0. 5% service charge.

"Customs", 10 Esplanade. 2 single rooms, 9 double rooms. £8.8.0.
10% service charge. (Licensed.)

"Harbour View", South Pier. 4 single rooms, 12 double rooms.
£7.17.6.

"Grosvenor Lodge", Grosvenor Street. 4 single rooms, 8 double rooms.
£6.6.0 to £7.7.0.

All the above take midweek bookings (Wednesday to Wednesday). Excursion Secretary: Mrs. E. M. Brightman, 2 Red Oak Close, Orpington, Kent. Meet outside the St. Helier Museum at 10.0 a.m. on Thursday 7 April. Mr. P. W. James is leader.

Summer Meeting in Ireland, 1966

The Summer Field Meeting will be held in the west of Ireland. The first week will be centred on Clifden, Co. Galway, from Wednesday 3 August to Wednesday 10 August 1966. The Clifden Bay Hotel is selected as the headquarters accommodation. Members will meet outside this Hotel at 9.30 a.m. on Thursday 4 August. Accommodation at Clifden is as follows, with details and prices quoted from the Official Guide for 1965:

Clifden Bay Hotel (Class B) 36 rooms. £15.15.0 per week full board.
Clifden House Guest House. (Class B) 14 rooms. £10 per week.
Cois Cuan Connemara Guest House. (Class B) 12 rooms. £9.10.0 per week.
Derryclare Guest House, The Square. (Class C). 5 rooms. £9. per week.
Rock Glen Country House Hotel. (Class C) 17 rooms. £10.10.0 per week.

The second week will be centred on Bantry, Co. Clare, from Wednesday 10 August to Wednesday 17 August 1966. Vickery's Hotel will be the headquarters accommodation. Members will meet outside this hotel at 9.30 a.m. on Thursday 11 August. Accommodation at Bantry is as follows, with 1965 prices:

Vickery's Hotel (Class B/C) 20 rooms. £13 per week full board.
Anchor Hotel. (Class C) 15 room. £12 per week.
Bantry Bay Hotel. (Class C). 21 rooms. £12.12.0 per week.
Bridge House Guest House, Bridge Street. (Class C) 7 rooms.
£10.10.0 per week.
Clarendon Guest House, The Square. (Class C) 5 rooms. £10 per week.

Class A accommodation is available at Ballylickey, a few miles outside Bantry.

Dr. M. Mitchell is leader of the summer meeting and persons attending must return the enclosed form to him and book their own accommodation stating that they will require packed lunches each day. Those requiring details of prices for 1966 and rail and bus times should write later this year to the Irish Tourist Office, 71 Regent Street, London, W.1., for the Official Guide to Hotels, 1966 edition, and the C.I.E. Passenger Train Timetable, which also gives bus connections at stations. Members using public transport to Clifden should travel by bus from Galway, and those going to Bantry go by bus from Cork. Members who have to travel by public transport between Clifden and Bantry will need to spend a night at Limerick. There are air services to Dublin (for rail connections to Galway) and Cork.

Bulletin 16, continued.

Changes of Officers etc. and/or addresses

Mr. J. H. G. Peterken resigns as Treasurer at the end of November. The Society is greatly indebted to Mr. Peterken for holding this onerous Office since the Society was founded in 1958, and for the efficient way he has dealt with all matters, whilst ensuring that the Society retained its financial stability. Dr. T. D. V. Swinscow, 103 London Road, Knebworth, Hertfordshire, takes over as Treasurer (subject to election at the Annual General Meeting) from 1st December 1965. Dr. Swinscow is resigning as Assistant Editor, and he is gratefully thanked for placing his vast knowledge of editorial and printing matters at the disposal of the Society for the past seven years, and for his scrupulous checking of manuscripts and proofs.

The Mapping Recorder, Mr. M. R. D. Seaward has changed his address to Science Department, Loughborough Training College, Ashby Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire, from 1 September 1965.

The President, Mr. A. E. Wade, is now in New Zealand. He will be unable to act as Referee until his return to the United Kingdom some time in 1966. Mr. F. A. Sowter has resigned as a Referee. We are sorry to lose the services of Mr. Sowter, who was the founder and original organiser of the Lichen Study Group, the only organisation devoted to lichens in Britain for many years, prior to the foundation of the British Lichen Society.

Works of Reference

The following is a list of some of the more important works of reference for the study of the British lichen flora. Such lists are to a certain extent a matter of personal choice and judgment, and this one is no exception. Catalogues are also of great value but are generally omitted here, due to their specialised content. All works are in English unless otherwise stated.

a. General Works

ALVIN, K. L. & KERSHAW, K. A. 1963. The Observer's Book of Lichens. London. Frederick Warne & Co. 126 pages, 64 plates, 9 text-figures. Price 5/-. Obtainable from most booksellers. [Best value for money for beginners]

HALE, M. E. jr. 1961. Lichen Handbook. A Guide to the Lichens of Eastern North America. Washington, D.C., Smithsonian Institution. 178 pages, 20 plates, 58 text-figures. Price 4 dollars (£1.9.0) (includes postage). Obtainable from Publications Distribution Section, Smithsonian Institution, Washington 25, D.C., U.S.A. [Foremost modern general textbook]

HAYNES, F. N. 1964. Lichens. Viewpoints in Biology 3 : 64-115. [Review article with numerous references]

SMITH, A. L. 1921. Lichens. Cambridge, University Press. 464 pages, 135 figures. Out of print.

b. Taxonomic Works

Serials:

The Lichenologist. 1958.- British Lichen Society. [Taxonomic revisions etc., Keys to various groups]

Books and papers:

DAHL, E. 1952. Analytical Keys to British Macrolichens. Cambridge, Botany School. 37 pages. Price 2/6d (includes postage). Obtainable from the Secretary, Botany School, The University, Downing Street, Cambridge. [Cyclostyled Keys to foliose and fruticose lichens]

ERICHSEN, C. F. E. 1957. Flechtenflora von Nordwestdeutschland. Stuttgart. G. Fischer. 411 pages. Price: DM.48 (£4.6.0) [Keys and descriptions in German]

POELT, J. 1962. Bestimmungsschlüssel der Höheren Flechten von Europa. Mitt. Bot. Staatssamml., Münch. 4: 301-571

[Keys, chiefly to foliose, fruticose and squamulose lichens in Europe; also published as a reprint in 1963 by J.Cramer; in German]

Rabenhorst's Kryptogamen-Flora von Deutschland, Österreich und der Schweiz. [Monographs of various families; in German]

SMITH, A. L. 1918. A Monograph of the British Lichens. 2nd edition. 1. London, British Museum (Natural History). XXIV + 520 pages, 71 plates. Out of print. [Detailed descriptions and fine illustrations]

SMITH, A. L. 1921. A Handbook of the British Lichens. Reprinted 1963. by Wheldon & Wesley and J.Cramer. 159 pages. 90 figures. Price: £1. [Keys poorly constructed but nevertheless a useful work]

SMITH, A. L. 1926. A Monograph of the British Lichens. Edition 2.2. London, British Museum (Natural History). 447 pages, 63 plates. Price: £2. plus postage. Obtainable from the British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London, S.W.7. [Detailed descriptions and fine illustrations]

c. Ecological and Geographical Works

ALMBORN, O. 1948. Distribution and ecology of some south Scandinavian lichens. Bot. Notiser, Suppl. Vol.1(2). 254 pages. 38 figures.

BARKMAN, J. J. 1958. Phytosociology and Ecology of Cryptogamic Epiphytes. Assen, Netherlands; Van Gorcum. 628 pages, 16 plates, 71 tables, 50 maps, 21 figures, 4 graphs. Out of print. [Standard work]

WATSON, W. 1953. Census Catalogue of British Lichens. London, Cambridge University Press. 91 pages. Out of print. [Vice-county distribution]

Dr. K. von Keissler

It is with regret that we have to report the death of the Austrian lichenologist Dr. Karl von Keissler on 9 January 1965. He was born in 1872 and was an expert on lichen parasites. His volume on the Usneaceae in Rabenhorst's Kryptogamen-Flora Deutschland was completed in 1960.

Field Meeting attendance

Persons expecting to attend field meetings are requested to return the forms provided so that the leader or excursion secretary knows who is due to be present. This procedure is essential in case any unexpected last minute changes have to be made regarding a meeting, so that the participants can be informed. Numbers are also needed so that hotel-lounge and vehicle accommodation can be assessed.

William Borrer

Biographical source material is needed on WILLIAM BORRER (1781-1862). Lichenologist and co-author (with Dawson Turner) of Lichenographia Britannica (1839). Letters to and from him, and the text of inscriptions on copies of the book are especially sought. The information should be sent to Mr. Lindsay Fleming, Aldwick Grange, Bognor Regis, Sussex.

National Nature Week, 1966

A second National Nature Week will be held from 23-30 April 1966. A Wild Life Exhibition is being held in Alexandra Palace, London Borough of Haringey, under the auspices of The Observer, entitled "Living with Nature." The exhibits will be chiefly related to habitats in cultivated and urban land, as opposed to the emphasis on semi-natural areas of the first National Nature Week Exhibition

in May 1963. Open each day from Thursday 21 April to Sunday 1 May from 10 a.m. to 9.0. p.m.; adults 3/-, children 2/-.

Quekett Microscopical Club Centenary Celebrations

The Quekett Microscopical Club announce an exhibition of microscopy, to celebrate their centenary, at the Central Hall, Westminster, London, S.W.1. 8-9 October 1965, open 1 to 9 p.m. on the 8th and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the 9th. The exhibition will present a survey of modern microscopy and microscopical equipment in science, industry and recreation, together with films, slides and microprojection. Visitors are welcome, and invitations may be obtained from The Secretary, Quekett Microscopical Club, 2 & 4 Tudor Street, London, E.C.4.

Lichens causing Human Disease

A paper by J.C. Mitchell and R.H. Champion in *Bryologist* 68 : 116-118 (1965) reports the occurrence of cases of human allergy to lichens. The reaction takes "the form of contact dermatitis, an itching red rash at the sites of contact on the sides and backs of the fingers and on the backs of the hands... Spread of the rash to the forearms, face and other skin areas may occur. The rash persists for several weeks after exposure to the lichen." In British Columbia two cases of "cedar poisoning" — an unsolved skin disease of forest workers — were shown to be due to lichens containing usnic acid, and the problem may be of considerable economic importance. In England a housewife developed allergic dermatitis "presumably from exposure to wood dust on her husband's clothing." Tests showed that this case was due to lichen present on the surface of the wood. The lichen responsible in this instance (not named in the paper) was Lecanora conizaeoides. The matter is to be studied further using experiments with animals. The authors consider that respiratory allergy to lichens may also occur, and ask for help in discovering further cases of allergic reactions to lichens.

Lichens killed by Artificial Fertiliser

An area of sheep-grazed chalk grassland in Wiltshire has been treated with artificial fertiliser, including nitrochalk, and herbicides, including MCPA, by the tenant farmer yearly for at least five years. The grassland contains scattered Sarsen stones which generally have a lichen flora of considerable scientific importance. A visit to the area in May 1965, not long after the treatment above had been carried out, showed that on a number of Sarsens the lichen vegetation had been almost completely killed, with remains of dead thalli on otherwise bare areas of stone. The lichen vegetation of the Sarsens is acidiphilous and therefore the nitrochalk, being calcareous, might be expected to be harmful to this type of vegetation; it appeared to be this substance that had killed the lichens. The area is scheduled by the Nature Conservancy as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (S.S.S.I.) and, as the law stands, the Conservancy is unable to prevent the land being treated in this way. The case draws attention to the legislative action which is vitally needed so that the Conservancy can provide adequate protection for such Sites. Members should inform the Conservation Officer of any similar instances of chemicals killing lichens.

Literature on Lichens

- BRIGHTMAN, F.H. 1965. The Lichens of Cambridge walls. Nature in Cambridgeshire 8 : 45-50. [Detailed descriptive account of the lichens found on walls in Cambridge].
- CHAMPION, R.H. 1965. Wood-cutter's disease: contact sensitivity to lichen. British Journal of Dermatology 77 : 285 [A letter to the Editor reporting the first established case of lichen dermatitis in Man in the United Kingdom].
- GILBERT, O. L. 1965. Lichens as indicators of air pollution in the Tyne Valley. Ecology and the Industrial Society (Birth Symposium of the British Ecological Society) : 35-47 [Important and detailed account of the effects of atmospheric pollution on the lichen vegetation on different types of substrata in and around Newcastle-upon-Tyne].
- LEWIS, J.R. 1964. The Ecology of Rocky Shores. London [The standard work with regard to shore zonation and ecology. The Verrucaria maura belt is classified as forming the littoral fringe of the littoral zone, since it is completely tidal in sheltered waters].