

New edition of Barkman's epiphyte book

Royal VanGorcum Ltd., Assen, Netherlands, announced in July the publication of a second edition of J. J. Barkman's Phytosociology and Ecology of Cryptogamic Epiphytes, price £11. 10s. Od. This book is the standard work on the ecology and phytosociology of epiphytes in Europe, and lichenologists and bryologists will be grateful that it is again available after being out of print for a number of years. Unfortunately the book is expensive, but there are 628 pages, 16 plates, 71 tables, 50 maps and 21 text-figures. The publisher's announcement gives the impression that the second edition is very similar to the 1958 first edition.

Index of Fungi to include lichens

Commencing with volume 4 part 1 (January 1971) the Index of Fungi will list the newly published names of genera, species and infraspecific taxa, new combinations, and new names of lichens, in addition to fungus names. Lichen names will be separately listed, but will be incorporated with fungi in the cumulative ten-year indices which are prepared for each volume. Lichen names published on and after 1 January 1970 are being included, and Dr D.L. Hawksworth, Commonwealth Mycological Institute, Ferry Lane, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, England, would be pleased to receive reprints from authors whose papers include new taxa published after this date.

The Index of Fungi is published in two parts yearly, each part covering literature appearing in approximately the previous six months. Further details may be obtained from the Director of the Commonwealth Mycological Institute.

Supplement to Chicita Culberson's Chemical Guide published

A 200 page paperback supplement to Dr C. F. Culberson's standard work Chemical and Botanical Guide to Lichen Products has now been published. It is entitled Supplement to Chemical and Botanical Guide to Lichen Products, and the author is once again Chicita Culberson. The book summarises the results published in papers covering the years 1965 to 1969. It is available exclusively from the American Bryological and Lichenological Society, and orders should be sent with payment (\$4.00 (£1.14s. Od.)) to Dr L. E. Anderson, Department of Botany, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina 27706, U.S.A.

Programme for autumn meeting at Oxford, 1970

Details of the autumn meeting at Oxford were included in Bulletin 26. This meeting is a new venture which combines field work with an indoor meeting. Please note that the time of meeting on the Saturday has been brought forward. The programme is as follows:

Friday 30 October 1970. 20.00. Meet at Linton Lodge Hotel, 13 Linton Road, Oxford.

Saturday 31 October 1970. 9.30. Meet at Department of Agricultural Science, Parks Road, Oxford, for day trip to Wychwood and the Rollright Stones. Bring packed lunch.

Evening lectures in Department of Agricultural Science:

SMITH, DR D. G.

HILL, DR D. J.

FARRAR, J. F.

Symbiotic algae.

Lichen habitats in the humid tropics.

Lichenology in Oxfordshire.

Sunday 1 November 1970, 10. 00. Meet at Department of Agricultural Science for identification of material.

GILBERT, DR O. L.

LIFFEN, C. L.

11. 00. Lectures in Department of Agricultural Science:
Some unexpected effects of sulphur dioxide on lichens.
Ion uptake in Peltigera species.

lunch

SLINGSBY, D. R.

BROWN, DR D. H.

MADDERS, M.

14. 00 Lectures:
Nickel in lichens on serpentine rocks.
Lichens of a disused lead mine.
Influence of roads on lichen distribution.

The lectures should each last between twenty and thirty minutes. Any other members wishing to speak would be welcome. Facilities for identifying material will be available throughout the weekend. The most useful map for the field day is O.S. 1" sheet 145 Banbury. Wychwood is a very old mixed deciduous wood in which some interesting lichens have recently been found and should be very rich.

Nominations for Officers and Council

Nominations for Officers for 1971 and Council Members for 1971 - 72 should be sent to the Secretary before 19 December 1970 on the enclosed form. No person may be nominated without their consent. Mr D. Jackson Hill, Mr A. R. Milne and Dr T. D. V. Swinscow retire from the Council and are not eligible for re-election.

Annual General, Lecture and Exhibition Meeting, 2 January 1971

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 10. 00 on Saturday 2 January 1971 in the Department of Botany, Imperial College, Beit Hall, Prince Consort Road (north side), South Kensington, London S.W.7, by kind invitation of Professor C. P. Whittingham, head of the Department. The nearest Underground station is South Kensington, and Exhibition Road connects this station with Prince Consort Road. The Department is immediately to the south of the Albert Hall. It is hoped that all members will endeavour to attend.

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting.
3. Matters arising.
4. Reports of the officers.
5. Election of honorary members:
 Professor Y. Asahina, Tokyo.
 Mr F. A. Sowter, Leicester.
 Mr A. E. Wade, Cardiff.
6. Place and dates of autumn meeting, 1971.
7. Place and dates of annual general, spring and summer meetings, 1972.
8. Election of auditor.
9. Election of three members of Council.
10. Election of officers.
11. Any other business.

J. R. LAUNDON

Honorary Secretary

Following the Annual General Meeting there will be the exhibition meeting from 11. 00 until 12. 00. Members are asked to make a special effort to contribute exhibits of lichenological interest. Members who would like an exhibit title carried out in letaset should send their title before 1 December 1970 to the Secretary who will bring the title to the meeting.

The lecture meeting will continue in the afternoon in the same building with two contrasting lectures which should be of considerable interest, one of which will include a practical demonstration. The day's programme is therefore as follows:

- 10.00. Annual General Meeting.
11.00. Exhibition Meeting.
12.00. Lunch. Members to make their own arrangements.
14.00. Lecture. D. L. HAWKSWORTH, Ph.D., F.L.S. Introduction to microchemical methods for the identification of lichen substances (including practical demonstration of microchemical tests) and their use in taxonomy.
15.30. Tea interval.
16.00. Lecture. T. D. V. SWINSCOW, M.B., B.S., M.Sc., F.L.S. Making sense of pyrenocarps.

Spring field meeting at Blandford, Dorset, 1971.

The spring field meeting will be centred on Blandford, Dorset, from Wednesday evening 7 April 1971 to Wednesday morning 14 April, under the leadership of Mr P. W. James. The local Secretary is Mr H. A. Shrimpton, Bryanston School, Blandford, Dorset. The Crown Hotel, West Street, will be the headquarters accommodation and members should meet outside here at 9.30 on Thursday 8 April. Members must book their own accommodation and return the enclosed form to Mr Shrimpton; anyone with difficulties should ask Mr Shrimpton for his help. The King's Arms Hotel, which is near the Crown, is recommended for those who prefer slightly less expensive accommodation to that provided by the headquarters. Persons booking full-board should point out that they will require packed lunches each day.

Laboratory facilities, including microscopes, glassware and some chemicals, will be available at Bryanston School. The laboratory is two miles from Blandford so members will need car transport from their hotels in the evenings; Mr Shrimpton can supply a map of the route.

Accommodation is listed below. All rooms have supplies of hot and cold water and packed lunches are available except where stated.

Crown Hotel, West Street (headquarters). (Telephone: Blandford 2366)

AA listed. 16 double, 8 single. Weekly terms: £22.1s.0d. full board (£26.5s.0d. incl. private bathroom); no half-pension.

Bed and breakfast £2.12s.6d.; dinner £1.1s.0d. 1970 prices.

King's Arms, Whitecliffe Mill Road. (Telephone: 2163) AA listed.

7 double, 5 single. No weekly terms. Bed and breakfast £1.12s.6d.; dinner à la carte (average under £1).

Badger Hotel, Salisbury Road (Telephone: 2166). 4 double.

Bed and breakfast £1.15s.0d. No water in rooms and no packed lunches or evening dinners provided.

Damory Hotel, Salisbury Road (Telephone: 2741). 6 double. Bed and breakfast £1.17s.6d. No packed lunches.

Star Inn, East Street (Telephone: 2108). 2 double, 3 single.

Bed and breakfast £1.10s.0d. No evening dinner.

Mrs K. M. Crook, Westerling House, Salisbury Road (Telephone: 2653).

3 double. Bed and breakfast £1.7s.6d. Dinner 12s.6d.

Mrs R. Solly, Old Rectory, Langton Long (Telephone: 3139). 3 double,

1 single. Weekly terms: £10. Bed and breakfast: £1.15s.0d.

Single room without water. No evening dinners.

Summer field meetings, 1971

The summer field meeting will be held at Hereford from 4 - 11 August 1971 and a field meeting in conjunction with the International Mycological Congress will be held at Ilfracombe, Devonshire, from 30 August - 6 September 1971. Details of these meetings will be issued in later numbers of the Bulletin.

Major lichen sites designated

The Lichen Site Committee of the Society has designated the following areas as being the most important for lichens in the British Isles. These areas are grouped into sites of international importance and sites of national importance. Steps are now being taken to ensure their conservation. National grid references are given for localities in Great Britain, and Irish national grid references are given for localities in the Republic of Ireland. Parishes are given in parenthesis.

The following areas are scheduled as sites of international importance for lichens:

- ANGUS: Caenlochan, NO 1--7--.
- ARGYLLSHIRE: Loch Sunart, NM 6--5--., NM 6--6--.
- DEVONSHIRE: Dartmoor oak woods, represented by:
Black Tor Copse, SX 56-88-, SX 56-89-.
Higher Piles Copse, SX 6--6--.
Wistman's Wood, SX 61-77-.
- HAMPSHIRE: New Forest, represented by:
Amie's Wood, SU 19-09-.
Anses Wood, SU 22-12-.
Bignell Wood, SU 29-13-.
Bramshaw Wood, SU 25-16-.
Burley Old Inclosure, SU 24-04-.
Eyeworth Wood, SU 22-15-.
Gritnam Wood, SU 28-06-.
Harvest Slade Bottom, SU 273070.
Howen Bushes, SU 23-14-.
Mark Ash Wood, SU 24-07-.
Queen Bower, SU 28-04-.
Rushpole Wood, SU 30-09-, SU 31-09-.
Shave Wood, SU 29-12-.
South Bentley Inclosure, SU 23-12-.
Vinney Ridge, SU 25-05-.
- KENT: Denge Beach (Lydd), TR 0--1--.
- KERRY: Killarney woods, V 9-8-, represented by:
Cromaglan.
Eagle's Nest.
Muckross National Park.
Torc Mountain.
- PERTHSHIRE: Ben Lawers, NN 6--4--.
- ROSS AND CROMARTY: Coulin Forest, NG 99-56-.
- SUFFOLK: Lakenheath Warren, TL 74-80-, TL 75-80-, etc.
- SUSSEX: Eridge Old Park and Saxonbury Hill (Frant; Rotherfield),
TQ 5--3--.

The following areas are scheduled as sites of national importance for lichens:

- CUMBERLAND: Great Wood, Derwent Water, NY 27-21-.
- CUMBERLAND: Johnny's Wood and Seatoller Wood (Borrowdale), NY 2--1--.
- DEVONSHIRE: Holne Chase (Holne), SX 7--7--.
- DURHAM: Shipley Wood (Marwood), NZ 0--2--.
- GALWAY: Derryclare Wood, near L 8349.
- INVERNESS-SHIRE: Rothiemurchus Forest, NH 9--0--.
- NORTHUMBERLAND: Monk Wood (Allendale), NY 78-56-.
- SUFFOLK: Staverton Park and The Thicks (Wantisden), TM 35-50-, etc.
- WILTSHIRE: Savernake Forest (Savernake), SU 2--6--.

Air pollution threatens uncontaminated areas

Estimates of the emission of sulphur dioxide in the United Kingdom continue to show a level slightly below the peaks reached in 1963-65. The measured concentration of sulphur dioxide in the air near ground level also continues to show a downward trend, and it is estimated that this dropped by about thirty-five per cent between 1957 and 1967. The increase in the emission of sulphur dioxide which took place between 1951 and 1963 is largely due to the increase in emissions from electricity generating stations, which have high chimneys dispersing their pollution into the upper air and so contributing little to the ground level concentration. The policy of discharging sulphur dioxide through high or very high chimneys is becoming increasingly popular, with the result that the pollution is now being dispersed over a wider area. This is of particular concern to lichenologists, since parts of the north and west of Britain which are unaffected by pollution at present may now begin to suffer from small increases in sulphur dioxide concentration. Thus the lichen flora of these unpolluted areas may change for the worst, as very small concentrations of sulphur dioxide have a devastating effect on lichen epiphytes. So far there is little published evidence that any spread in the general area of blanket pollution is at present taking place. It should be one of the main tasks of lichenologists in the seventies to assess whether the extensions which are occurring are affecting the lichen flora. Representations must also be made to the effect that tall chimneys which are to give out large quantities of sulphur dioxide should not be sited in areas which have so far escaped the effects of pollution. Thus the advanced and proposed developments at Anglesey, Pembroke and Plymouth which threaten the south-west and Wales with pollution are viewed by lichenologists with considerable concern.

The total emission of sulphur dioxide may be expected to continue to decline over the next decade because of the increasing use of natural gas from the North Sea and an increase in production of nuclear-electricity. Gas is in a very strong position in relation to its competitors because of the plentiful supply. Solid fuel has been set back by the shortage of smokeless fuels, whilst confidence in electricity has recently waned following the varied troubles at generating stations which continue to lead to widespread voltage reductions. On the domestic front the increasing popularity of central heating, which will probably be looked upon before the end of the century as essential to the home as running hot water is today, will place natural gas at an increasing advantage. The smokeless fuel shortage, as well as the work involved in running solid-fired heating appliances, should mean that solid fuel will become less popular as time progresses. At present electric storage heaters are generally capable of providing background heating only. Thus gas should become the chief form of heating for domestic purposes, and this development will be welcomed by lichenologists for North Sea gas is almost sulphur-free. The Gas Council are now exploiting this advantage with advertisements of smoking chimneys in the press and on Independent Television; they are also financing a hard-hitting film on air pollution which is being made with a view to distribution on one of the two main cinema circuits during the coming winter.

Air pollution may possibly be reduced in the future by direct Government action. The Queen's Speech stated that the Conservative Government would "intensify the drive to remedy past damage to the environment and will seek to safeguard the beauty of the British countryside and seashore for the future." The Government have not stated what form such measures will take, and have not said whether they will adopt those proposed in the White Paper on Pollution or presented by the previous Labour Government. This stated that Labour had, if been returned to power at the General Election was to introduce regulations limiting the amount of grit and dust from chimneys, raise the standards required for emissions from all scheduled industries under the Alkali Act, and control pollution from road vehicles, amongst others. The present

Government have been subject to considerable criticism for not appointing a Minister to deal with the problems of the environment, and for not stating any policy on pollution. Since the battle is primarily one of expense there is little ground for optimism of tough government action because of the commitments to large cuts in public spending.

Increasing population is perhaps the most important aspect of conservation yet it is a matter which receives the least attention. As population increases so does the amount of land given over to urban development. Urban areas pollute the air with the result that damage to the lichen flora occurs wherever additional urban development takes place. By the year 2000 the population of the United Kingdom is expected to reach 65 million, compared with 55 million at present, and a child born today may see the population of Britain double within his lifetime. Mr Crosland, the Minister concerned with the environment under the previous Government, considered that the case for a population policy for the United Kingdom had not been demonstrated. Nevertheless a Select Committee to study population growth had been set up. This was discontinued when Parliament was dissolved and it remains to be seen whether it will be reconstituted when Parliament reassembles this month. In the meantime a policy for population remains as far away as ever.

Lichens as clean air indicators

The recent articles by Dr Gilbert, Dr Hawksworth and Dr Rose are having a valuable impact in bringing home the use of lichens as indicators of air pollution. In a letter to The Times published on 31 August 1970 Dr K. Mellanby, Director of the Monks Wood Experimental Station of the Nature Conservancy, suggests that the motto of ecologists can be:

"Air fit for lichens
Water fit for trout."

Dr Mellanby then remarks that if we "ever reach these standards, our environment will indeed be safe for man, and fit for his civilised enjoyment." Our objective "should be at least to aim at restoring, however much it may cost, pure air and pure water."

University Extension course on fungi and lichens

Mr P. W. James is giving a course of twenty-four meetings (including four visits) on lichens and fungi at Chelsea Physic Garden, Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea, London, S.W.3, each week from Monday 5 October 1970 at 19.00. This University of London Extension course is intended for interested amateurs and will include a comprehensive survey of lichens and fungi with special reference to their ecology and simpler aspects of physiology and chemistry. There will be practical work in identification and taxonomy. Prior knowledge is not essential. The enrolment fee is £2. 5s. Od. and application forms may be obtained from The Deputy Director (Extension), Department of Extra-Mural Studies, 7 Ridgmount Street, London, W.C.1. (Telephone: 01-636 8000 ext. 274).

New column in Bulletin

A new column "Letters to the editor" is included in this Bulletin and it is hoped to continue the column in future numbers. Its continuation depends on letters being received from members, and the editor will be most pleased to receive any dealing with lichenological or Society matters. Letters intended for the Bulletin should be marked "letter to the editor" to distinguish them from ordinary correspondence, and should be sent to J. R. Laundon, Department of Botany, British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London, S.W.7.

Letters to the editor

Sir, - I should like to draw the Society's attention to the possible dangers of the suggestion in Bulletin 25 that "a leather boot lace makes a strong and fashionable neck cord for wearing the lens in the field." Thin hard material such as a leather boot lace or cord can cause cutting or neck injury if it becomes caught or entangled in a fall.

I find a length of elastic is both practical and a safety precaution as it stretches under tension, and therefore reduces the possibility of injury.

Yours sincerely, (Miss) Tessa Leslie
Margravine Gardens, London, W.6.

New acting Librarian and Reading Circle Secretary

The Council of the Society have appointed Dr D. H. Brown, Department of Botany, The University, Bristol, BS8 1UG, to be acting Librarian and Reading Circle Secretary. Dr Brown already holds the position of Treasurer. The Society would be grateful for any reprints for the library - these should be sent direct to Dr Brown, to whom future requests for the loan of books and reprints, as well as Reading Circle subscriptions, should also be addressed. The catalogue to the library produced by Dr Smith is still available and a supplement which brings it up-to-date has just been produced. Either or both of these may be obtained free from Dr Brown.

The Society is most grateful to Dr D. C. Smith for his work as Librarian since the formation of the Society in 1958, and for all the hard work he has done in building up the Society's library from nothing. Dr Smith has also been Reading Circle Secretary since 1964 and for this too the Society owes him considerable gratitude. The departure of Dr Smith from the job of Librarian leaves only Mr P. W. James, the Editor and Recorder, still holding the same office as when the Society was formed.

New acting Curator

The Council have appointed Mr J. D. Guiterman, 72 Harrowdene Road, Wembley, Middlesex, to be acting Curator. Enquiries for the loan of specimens, and material for the collection, should in future be sent to Mr Guiterman. The former curator, Mr F. H. Brightman, has relinquished the office, and the Society is very grateful for all the work he has carried out in connection with the herbarium since his appointment in 1964.

Regional Treasurer (North America) appointed

A Regional Treasurer (North America) has been appointed by the Council of the Society in order to make it easier for members living in North America to pay their subscriptions and invoices, and for the Society to avoid heavy bank charges for the conversion of currency. The Regional Treasurer is Dr D. H. S. Richardson, Department of Biology, Laurentian University, Sudbury, Ontario, Canada.

Members living in North America are therefore kindly requested to pay their future subscriptions and invoices in one of the following ways:

1. To the Treasurer, Dr D. H. Brown, in sterling.
2. To the Regional Treasurer (North America), Dr D. H. S. Richardson, the sterling equivalent as either (a) Canadian dollars or (b) American dollars plus twenty-five cents handling charge.

Metric conversion tables

Almost all scientific journals require their contributors to give measurements in metric. This leads to problems of conversion when specimens are cited, since the altitude is often given in feet on collectors' labels, especially as regards British material. The Ordnance Survey are to show all contour lines and heights on their maps in metres eventually, but they have so far produced only specimen maps of this kind which are not on sale to the public. When these maps are available collectors will be able to cite their altitudes in metres. Meanwhile conversion tables are invaluable for converting feet to metres, and they always will be for the citation of old material. A conversion table is given below, with the altitude correct to the nearest ten metres. A short table of miles to kilometres is also included, because collectors' locality data occasionally includes reference to distances in miles.

<u>feet</u>	<u>metres</u>	<u>feet</u>	<u>metres</u>	<u>feet</u>	<u>metres</u>
10	3	3000	910	6000	1830
50	15	3100	940	6100	1860
100	30	3200	980	6200	1890
200	60	3300	1010	6300	1920
300	90	3400	1040	6400	1950
400	120	3500	1070	6500	1980
500	150	3600	1100	6600	2010
600	180	3700	1130	6700	2040
700	210	3800	1160	6800	2070
800	240	3900	1190	6900	2100
900	270	4000	1220	7000	2130
1000	300	4100	1250	7100	2160
1100	340	4200	1280	7200	2190
1200	370	4300	1310	7300	2230
1300	400	4400	1340	7400	2260
1400	430	4500	1370	7500	2290
1500	460	4600	1400	7600	2320
1600	490	4700	1430	7700	2350
1700	520	4800	1460	7800	2380
1800	550	4900	1490	7900	2410
1900	580	5000	1520	8000	2440
2000	610	5100	1550		
2100	640	5200	1580	<u>miles</u>	<u>km</u>
2200	670	5300	1620	1	1.6
2300	700	5400	1650	2	3.2
2400	730	5500	1680	3	4.8
2500	760	5600	1710	4	6.4
2600	790	5700	1740	5	8.0
2700	820	5800	1770	6	9.7
2800	850	5900	1800	7	11.3
2900	880			8	12.9
				9	14.5
				10	16.1

Introduction of decimal currency

On Monday 15 February 1971 the United Kingdom will convert to decimal currency. Cheques etc. sent to the Society for subscriptions or publications which are expected to reach the Treasurer at Bristol before 10 February 1971 should be written out in Imperial currency, but those received after that date must be in decimal. This is because banks will not accept cheques written out in the old currency after their closure on 11 February.

Members are reminded that subscriptions for 1971 are due on 1 January.

Lichenologist published

Part 3 of volume 4 of The Lichenologist was published on 16 April 1970. This is the first part for 1969 subscribers, and any member who paid a subscription to the Society for 1969 and who did not receive a copy should inform the Secretary.

The second part for 1969 is in page proof and should be published shortly. The Society regrets that the journal is still running a year behind schedule.

Referees: Mr Wade abroad

Mr A. E. Wade, Cardiff, has just left for a year in New Zealand and will be unable to referee material until his return in September 1971.

Ian Campbell dies after accident

Mr I. S. C. Campbell, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester, died about two months ago following a car accident. He was in his mid twenties and was the only child of Mr and Mrs Campbell, at present living in Gibraltar, but who formerly lived near Altrincham, Cheshire. He was an active member of the British Lichen Society, attending many meetings and being a regular contributor to the mapping scheme. His photographs of lichens were brilliant, and he contributed a valuable article on lichen photography to the Bulletin. It is particularly tragic that a lichenologist of such potential should be killed at such an early age.

Dr Culberson resigns as editor of The Bryologist

In the first number of volume 73 of The Bryologist Dr W. L. Culberson has announced his resignation as editor. Although there has been criticism of Dr Culberson for his rigid editing of papers, he has without doubt been very successful in improving the journal so that a high standard is immediately apparent. The format and scope of the publication have been increased so that lengthy articles are now acceptable. Dr Culberson has given The Bryologist an individual flavour so lacking in many journals by including literary quotations at the end of each issue, and by writing outspoken and controversial book reviews. He became editor in 1963 and all lichenologists and bryologists owe him a great debt for all the hard work which he has put into the job. It is understood that he will continue to contribute his invaluable account of recent lichen literature. A bryologist is being appointed as the new editor.

Herbarium moved in Dublin

The herbarium, staff, and library of the botanical department of the National Museum of Ireland were transferred to the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin 9, on 27 April 1970 to form the Irish National Herbarium. This has entailed the moving of the lichen collections, which is of major importance for Irish material, including specimens studied by M. C. Knowles. The herbarium code remains as DBN, and DUB is deleted.

Pseudevernia furfuracea mapping in Britain

Mr D. S. Chapman and Dr D. L. Hawksworth are completing the mapping of the chemical races of Pseudevernia furfuracea (L.) Zopf in the British Isles. They would be pleased to receive records which have not already been sent to the Mapping Scheme or to Dr Hawksworth. Details of the reaction of the medulla with calcium hypochlorite should be given where known. Records of C negative plants, other than those from southern England, cannot be accepted until the specimens have been studied microchemically. Material will be promptly examined and returned. Records and specimens should be sent to Dr D. L. Hawksworth, Commonwealth Mycological Institute, Ferry Lane, Kew, Richmond, Surrey.

Request for fresh specimens

Mr R. M. Garrett, 7 Belmont, Lansdowne Road, Bath, Somerset, would like samples of freshly gathered Arthonia spp., Bacidia spp., Lecanactia app., and Lecanora spp., from Britain for research on spore discharge and dispersal. Sufficient material to provide about fifty mature fruiting bodies for the experiments, plus a small piece for retention in a reference herbarium, is kindly requested. Usual locality data should accompany the specimens.

New members

The following members joined the Society between April and September 1970. F.M. = family member.

Baddeley, Dr M. Susan, Department of Botany, Bedford College,
Regent's Park, LONDON N.W.1.
Brinklow, R. K., 5 Murray Road, Mickleover, DERBY.
Di Meo, J.A., 48 Clifton Grove, PAIGNTON, Devonshire.
Dunn, I. A., 38 Sandbrook Road, Ainsdale, SOUTHPORT, Lancashire.
Filho, Dr L. Z., Departamento de Botanica, Ins. de Biociências, RECIFE,
Pernambuco, Brazil.
Gomm, F. R., Greenside, Ashmount Road, GRANGE-OVER-SANDS, Lancashire.
Harrold, P., 114 Old Park Ridings, Winchmore Hill, LONDON N.21.
Hobson, Miss C., B.Sc., 66 New Street, BEAUMARIS, Anglesey.
Long, Mrs J. M., 114 Seabrook Road, HYTHE, Kent.
MacNeill, Miss P., B.Sc., 2024 Urbana Road, N.W., CALGARY, Alberta, Canada.
Muhle, H., Department of Biology, Faculty of Pure & Applied Science,
University of Ottawa, OTTAWA 2, Ontario, Canada.
Otway, Miss L. G., 38 Cromwell Road, Eastney, PORTSMOUTH, Hampshire.
Tills, Miss N. C., 7 Paget Close, HORSHAM, Sussex.
Tills, Mrs R. E., 7 Paget Close, HORSHAM, Sussex. (F.M.)
Wilverforce, P. C., F. L. S., L.I.Biol., Little Yaffles, Womenswold,
CANTERBURY, Kent.
Wilkins, P., Fell Edge, High Ireby, CARLISLE, CA5 1HF.

Dangers of asbestos dust

Lichenologists should bear in mind the dangers from asbestos dust when collecting or studying lichens from asbestos-cement roofs or other surfaces containing asbestos. Care should be taken to ensure that the dust is not inhaled. Asbestos has been shown to be highly carcinogenic (cancer inducing) to rats and is harmful to man in industrial atmospheres in which asbestos is used. In recent years asbestos fibres have been shown to occur in urban air and there is some concern about this in medical circles.

Recruits for Lichenology?

"There are certain sections of the public upon whose attention in particular we would strongly urge the claims of Lichenology or kindred studies ... the invalid from our large towns, whose delicate mental and physical organisation have suffered wreck in the too eager or engrossing pursuit of wealth or fame, and who is now compelled for a season to relinquish former habits or studies, and to seek instead the vague objects of change of air and scene in the pure genial atmosphere of the country; the summer loungee at our sea-coasts, whose chief or sole occupation is perchance to listen daily to the mournful and unceasing wail of the "sad sea waves", or to watch the tides alternately leaving and obliterating their footprints on the shifting sands; the habitue of our fashionable watering-places, who compels himself daily to drink a certain quantity of mineral water, walk a certain number of miles, and read a certain proportion of a novel, so as to occupy or dissipate his time; the tourist among our Highlands and Islands, whose chief aim is too frequently to pass over the greatest amount of space in the shortest possible time, and who too seldom merges from the beaten track laid down in his favourite guide-book; the Art student in search of the picturesque among our hills and vales, who cannot truly appreciate the picturesque without being acquainted with the minutest elements of which it is composed; and the fair denizen of our urban drawing-rooms, whose accomplishments, gained it may be at a great expense of time and money, are too frequently frivolous and profitless, and who have, more than any class of persons above mentioned, the necessary time and qualifications ... To the fair sex especially, during their summer search after health and happiness, we would commend the study of Natural History as infinitely more ennobling than the host of fashionable though profitless accomplishments, which they at present take such pains to possess. Many ladies have already taken a high stand as Algologists and Pteridologists; many have cultivated the physical sciences, with such success as may well encourage others to follow their example: they are by nature better fitted than men to collect and preserve minute and delicate organisms; and we see no reason why they should not be equally capable of examining and describing, did they direct their energies or acumen in this direction." LINDSAY, W. L. 1856. A Popular History of British Lichens. London.

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YOSHIMURA, I. & ISOVIITA, P. 1969. Scopoli's lichen specimens and the typification of *Lobaria scrobiculata* (Scop.) DC. Ann. bot. Fenn. 6: 348 - 352.
(Lectotypification of *Lobaria scrobiculata*; The names of *Pertusaria leioplaca* and *P. pertusa* are shown to be illegitimate.)

Secretary's report for 1969

The membership of the Society continues to increase at a reasonable rate. At the end of 1969 the number of members was 446, compared with 425 at the end of 1968, an increase of twenty-one. The number of new members joining the Society during 1969 was fifty-one, in comparison with forty-one for the previous year: an increase of ten. During the year the stock of the prospectus was exhausted and a new revised printing was carried out. This was distributed to all Universities, as well as to a selection of Colleges of Technology and Education, in the British Isles towards the end of the year, and has already resulted in a number of persons joining the Society.

The meetings of the Society were successful. The Annual General, Lecture and Exhibition meeting in January was a record for the numbers of both speakers and exhibits, as well as for the attendance of fifty-two. As regards field meetings the best attended was the day wall tour with the Kent Field Club on which nineteen were present. Thirteen members and friends went on the autumn weekend meeting at Leicester, and those present were pleased to be joined for lunch with Mr and Mrs Sowter; Mr Sowter was one of the few who kept lichenology alive in Britain between the active years of Dr Watson, and the formation of the Society, and it was a pleasure to find him well enough to take part in this activity. The spring meeting at Totnes, Devonshire, was attended by twelve members, but only three stayed on to take part in the dyeing course which formed part of the Textile Study Course at Dartington Hall; fortunately the total attendance for the seminar on lichen dyeing was sixteen, so this new venture proved a success. The attendances at the summer meeting at Bangor and the day excursion to the New Forest did not reach double figures but were nevertheless enjoyed by those taking part. The Society is grateful to Mr Brightman, Mr A. Fletcher, Mr Hawksworth, Mrs Morel, Dr Richardson and Dr Rose for arranging and leading the field meetings. Two meetings of the Council were held.

Part two of volume four of The Lichenologist was published on 2 May 1969 and the editor Mr James, assistant editor Dr Richardson, and the authors are thanked for maintaining the high standard of the journal. Two Bulletins and an index were issued during the year. All the officers are thanked for carrying out their duties efficiently and I am grateful to all members for their help and co-operation.

J. R. LAUNDON
Honorary Secretary

(This report was presented at the Annual General Meeting, 3 January 1970.)

Treasurer's report for 1969

It is regretted that this has been delayed pending the completion of the 1969 Lichenologist, when Blackwell's charges will be known.

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