

THE VASCULUM (SUBSTITUTE)

MARCH 1946-

Vol. XXXI, No. 1.

Price 2/6 per annum; post free

Edited by

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BY THE WAY

As we hope to publish this number early in May, it seems likely that we shall be able to resume our accustomed regularity in appearance in the very near future. In order to help us to reach and maintain that position, we once more urge the Secretaries to provide us with accounts of the doing's of their Societies as regularly and punctually as possible. Notes and records, which are always welcome, may be sent by our readers at any time.

THE REV. JOHN WALLIS, M.A. ONCE AGAIN.

A recent re-examination of Wallis' "Natural History and Antiquities of Northumberland", published in 1769, only serves to emphasize the importance of the work and its enormous value to students of local natural history. Moreover, its unflinching accuracy is impressed upon one. To assert that it is a mine of interesting information greatly underestimates the position.

Some of the plants he records had never been seen locally by any living botanist; nevertheless, when they were searched for, they were discovered precisely where Wallis asserted that he collected them. However, one of his discoveries, the Yellow Bird's Nest, (*Hypopitys monotropa*) which he calls the "Slender Straw-coloured Orobanche, with oblongflowers", fails to appear in any of our local floras; nor has anyone reported it from either of our counties during the past 170 years. Wallis has made no mistake in naming his plant, and the directions he supplies for finding his stations are very clear. He writes "The slender straw-coloured Orobanche, with oblongflowers, is not unfrequent in the woods near Wark in Tynedale, about the the tree-roots under putrid leaves, an inch or two only under the surface. I have observed it in Ramshow-wood by the roadside, near the mill; also under the bushes on the bank on the east side of the ostium of Wark's-burn. The stalk, membranes, and flowers,

are of a pale yellow, or straw-colour, beautiful in the time of flowering, in July and August. Can any of the more enterprising of our junior members rediscover the plant?

PLANTS AND GARDENS.

We have received recently several copies of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden Record under its new name "Plants and Gardens" It is published quarterly, and costs 2 dollars per year or 3 dollars for two years. This periodical can be recommended as a marvel of cheapness and usefulness.

The subjects discussed are those of perennial interest to all gardeners, but to these are added more scientific articles treated in a manner suitable for all types of readers. In the Autumn number for example, there appear articles with the titles "Rooting Cuttings with Plant Hormones", "Problems in Seed Germination", and "Do Plants, too have Cancer?" The same issue also contains a symposium on Chrysanthemums, illustrated by a series of beautiful coloured plates, which, with an abundance of well-executed photographs and drawings, form characteristic features of each number.

THE SOCIETIES

NORTHERN NATURALISTS' UNION

On March 2nd, we met for the Twenty-second Annual Meeting of the Union in the Hancock Museum, by the kind invitation of the Natural History Society. The President, Mr. E. L. Davison was in the chair, and the growth of the Union and the energies it represents were amply demonstrated by the size of the attendance.

Mr. Ruxton, our Treasurer, and Dr. K. B. Blackburn, the Secretary, once again presented exceedingly satisfactory reports and once more the success of the Vasculum was emphasized. To all the officers concerned cordial votes of thanks were accorded. The election of officers followed, when Professor J. W. Heslop Harrison was chosen as President in succession to Mr. E. L. Davison. Next we proceeded to the election of new members, and gratifying accessions were made to our ranks in the form of senior and of junior members.

After the business was concluded, the retiring President read an important paper on "The Value of Natural History Societies and Museums", which should serve to stimulate our Societies to further activities.

The meeting was succeeded at 4-30 p.m. by an informal *Conversazione* at which tea and light refreshments were provided

After tea we proceeded to study and talk over a fine series of exhibits which had been arranged for inspection. Of these, by far the most outstanding was the lovely groups of spring flowers and shrubs staged by Mr. R. B. Cooke. All who saw them wondered at their owner's success and skill. Of the other specimens shown, Mr. Stainthorpe interested us with a set of minerals whilst Miss Fatma Hussien produced mounted specimens of abnormal Cuckoo-flowers, and Mr. N. H. Brittain equally striking Lesser Celandines. Mr. A. E. Hart once again caused us to wonder at his skilful use of his Exakta camera on unusual subjects. Mr. Pirt, a newcomer, had on view a carefully prepared collection of desert plants from North Africa and also some limestone fossils. Dr. W. A. Clark showed some Hebridean plants and Prof. J. W. Heslop Harrison the Hebridean bee *Bombus smithianus*, with our local allied species for comparison. Derek Robertson again showed his capacities for work by producing the flowering plants and seaweeds resulting from his latest outings.

BOOK REVIEW.

"BUTTERFLIES" by E. B. Ford, published by Collins, 16/- net.

We have read this book with the greatest pleasure, and can recommend it as the most stimulating book dealing with the subject of butterflies produced in modern times. The author approaches the whole matter with a new outlook and at every point opens out new subjects of interest to the butterfly students whether amateur or otherwise. The illustrations too, are worthy of the highest praise. Unstintingly as we praise this book it must not be imagined that it is of equal value throughout, or without its faults. Many misprints occur and even in such an important matter as nomenclature it will be found that the system of tribal names adopted in the Nymphalidae differs from that in the Lycaenidae.

Then, too, at many places there are omissions of references to the papers of workers quoted in the text. Mr. Ford, in his preface, states that the views he expresses are entirely his own except where stated to the contrary. A glance at page 297 where our mixed local populations of *Aricia agestis* are discussed will reveal no mention of the original paper in the Trans. Nat. Hist. Soc. Northumberland and Durham, 6, pp. 89-106, (1924) in which the phenomena were first expounded: nor, indeed, are the authors of that paper named.

From the scientific standpoint, however, the weakest portions of the book are those dealing with the origins of the British butterfly fauna, its geographical distribution and genetics. In

particular, we feel that Mr. Ford is not well enough equipped for dealing with the former pair of topics and, as a result his conclusions, to say the least, are very doubtful. Even the maps provided fail to give a correct picture of the position in this area. As for the genetics, readers are warned not to rely too much on that section. The discussions are over weighted on the theoretical side, and at points statements are made which are definitely misleading.

However, on the whole, the book is a production of the highest order.

NOTES AND RECORDS

NOTES.

Squirrels in Upper Weardale.--The red squirrel occurs fairly frequently in Upper Weardale. I have seen them in the Denes at Stanhope, Eastgate and Westgate, as well as in Stanhope Big Wood and a number of places on the north side of the valley. The point furthest west where I have observed squirrels was Harthorpe Burn plantation and this on one occasion only. Very rarely they have been noted well above the 1000 foot contour, but the felling of nearly all the plantations appears to be responsible for a decline in numbers everywhere.

They invariably travel across country on the tops of the dry stone walls which are such a prominent Weardale feature. The only time I have seen two together in the dale was early one January morning last year when the temperature was very low indeed, (20° of frost at Bumhope). These two squirrels were playing about a hedgerow near the gamekeeper's lodge at Stanhope. Sometimes a squirrel can be seen in the trees in the Castle grounds there.

The reason for their general scarcity higher up the dale than St. John's Chapel (over 1000') may be found in the lack of hazel bushes in any quantity; in addition, filled beech mast is very rare indeed, whilst very few oaks are found further up the Dale than Westgate.—N. Beavers.

Notes on a Peaty Leaf-bed in the Team Valley.—Forming part of Urpeth Bottoms between the old flour mill and the oil mill, lies a flat meadow through which the River Team meanders. Parts of this area are marshy, and the general lie of the land suggests a silted up lake. The river bank is here about seven feet high and consists of layers of alluvium of varying consistency. Professor Harrison has watched these banks for years and noticed a peaty leaf bed, less than a foot in thickness, about 10 ft. down. Samples which he has brought from this bed have now been investigated with a view to a possible reconstruction of the scene of its formation.

The leaves in the bed were chiefly oak and bracken, but an odd leaf of the grey sallow was also identified. Seeds were few; a number of achenes of a *Potentilla*, perhaps the Marsh Cinquefoil, one fruit of alder and two small sedge fruits were all that were discovered. Stems of bracken were abundant and small twigs of alder and of oak were present. Larger pieces of wood belonged to the roots of a pine tree. Two mosses, *Dicranum scoparium* and *Hylocomium splendens* were readily recognised.

The material was throughout very silty, and needed special treatment to concentrate the pollen in it sufficiently for counting, but the grains were nevertheless in good condition and thus easily recognised. The tree pollen was found in the following proportions: Oak 47 %, alder 45%, birch 5%, pine 2%. Other pollen and spores, reckoned as percentages of the total for tree pollen, gave these figures: hazel 15%, willow 5%, grass 60%, sedges 9%, heather 5% and fern, half of which was recognised as bracken 34%.

These remains give us a fairly good picture of the scene at the time when the leafy deposit was being formed. We see a small lake produced by the ponding up of a sluggish stream and accumulating vegetable debris in its backwaters. Round the edge of the pool grew alder and willow, and here and there bracken drooped over the water; further back the wood consisted mainly of oak trees intermingled with hazel in small quantity. The pine roots had probably been washed downstream from some drier heights.

Later on some change in the current of the river ended the leaf bed, and another mass of silt was laid down above.

On the west side of the stream near the oil mill, apparently at a higher level than the leaf bed, yet beneath the present surface. Professor Harrison discovered another dark band which, on investigation, proved to be due to wood fires, for it contained quantities of oak charcoal. If this was produced from brushwood fires lit by foresters who had cleared the trees, and if the area was not replanted, it would provide an explanation of the very much larger proportion of birch trees in the present vegetation than that indicated by the pollen counts, for the natural regeneration of felled woodland in the area is birch.

It is, on the other hand, possible that the whole story is much older, because at Cranberry Bog, less than a mile to the S.W., pollen statistics worked out some years ago by Miss H. C. Brooks showed that a similar increase of birch took place there in what was probably pre-Roman times.

It would be extremely interesting if any historical evidence of woodlands in this area could be discovered so that this story could be fitted into its place in local history.—K.B.B.

Some Tyne Bank Plants from Wylam.--The sandy banks of the Tyne and its tributaries produce a number of interesting plants whose distribution does not harmonize with that elsewhere in the county. In our modest war-time excursions to Wylam, it has been noticed that the river there is richly endowed with these plants. Spring Sandwort (*Arenaria verna*) and Alpine Penny Cress (*Thlaspi alpestre*) are quite common, but the places they really like are the lead mines of Allendale or Weardale.

Two plants there characteristic of the N. Tyne rather than the S. Tyne are the Northern Bedstraw (*Galium boreale*) and the clustered Bellflower (*Campanula glomerata*).

Another group of plants represented is that with a double type of distribution, alpine and maritime. Of these, the Thrift or Sea Pink (*Armeria maritima*) is the most clear cut case because the sea Plantain (*Plantago maritima*) is recorded for other places inland (the Town Moor, Ingoe etc.) and the Scurvy Grass needs most critical study.

The Mountain Pansy (*Viola lutea* and its blue variety *amoena*) reaches as far down as Wylam, though it normally is only found

above 1,000 ft. Its frequency on the Tyne is probably due to its hybridization with *V. tricolor* having changed its environmental needs.

An investigation of Baker and Tate's records for these plants seems to indicate that some of them have increased their range by travelling down stream during the last 80 years or so.

The Alpine Penny Cress apparently only extended to Bywell in the eighteen sixties whereas now it is in great quantity below Wylam. The Thrift seems to have travelled even farther since it is only described as reaching Hexham then. This was not because of lack of knowledge of the Wylam flora, as that place is definitely mentioned as a locality for most of the plants referred to here.

Lastly, the Mountain Pansy, which is such a very obvious feature of the Tyne Banks to-day, can scarcely have been so last century or it would surely merit something stronger than "sometimes carried lower (than Sinderhope) by the streams". I think we are obliged to conclude that this vast hybrid population has been developed during the last 100 years. In many cases, the hybridity is obvious, but it cannot always be detected. Detailed mapping of these last three plants is being attempted and readers who know localities where they are found would help by communicating with the writer.—K.B.B.

RECORDS.

LEPIDOPTERA.

Lycæna phlæas L. Small Copper.	66 & 67
The variety <i>lacticolor</i> (Schmidtii) was taken at Seaton Sluice whilst the same variety (1), var. <i>alba</i> (1) and var. <i>auro-radiata</i> (4) were secured from one colony near Sunderland.—J.K.M.	
Deilephila elpenor L. Elephant Hawk.	66
One full grown larva at Warden Law.—J.K.M.	
Photedes captiuncula Treit. Least Minor.	66
Abundant but in poor condition, on Sherburn Hill on July 28th.—J.K.M.	
Epirrhoe tristata L. Small Argent and Sable.	66
In great abundance at White Force, Cronkley Fell.—J.K.M.	
Peridroma porphyrea Schiff. Pearly Underwing.	67
A dark female was taken at light at Gosforth on Sept. 30th, 1945; it carried numbers of red mites on its wings and thorax.—J. S. Ash.	
Arenostola pygmina Haw. Small Wainscot.	67
Taken at light at Gosforth; also noted in Gosforth Park, Blagdon, Dinnington and Prestwick Carr.—J. S. Ash.	
Thera variata Schiff.	67
A fine melanic specimen emerged from Prestwick Carr pupae on Sept. 10th.—J. S. Ash.	
Euchloe cardamines L. Orange Tip.	67
This butterfly has been noted in various places and has increased considerably of recent years. It is now quite common at Riding Mill.—F. W. Gardner.	
Cranioophora ligustri Fb. Coronet.	67
A single larva taken from a privet hedge at Riding Mill.—F.W.G.	
Aporophila nigra Hw. Black Rustic.	67.
A worn specimen came to light at Riding Mill in 1936. Also taken by me when with Mr. R. Craigs at Catcleugh.—F.W.G.	

Dasyolia templi Thbg, Brindled Ochre.	67
One at Newcastle.—F.W.G.	
Xylena exsoleta L. Sword Grass.	67
Not uncommon at shallows some years near Riding Mill.—F.W.G.	
X. vetusta Hb. Red Sword Grass.	67
Taken in the same localities but more freely than its ally; also at shallows.—F.W.G.	
Colostygia salicata Hb.	67
A single specimen came to light at Riding Mill on August 19th, 1939—a curious record both in respect to locality and date.—F.W.G.	

COLEOPTERA—BEETLES.

Tetratoma desmaresti Lat.	66
Rare at Hookergate, Oct. 23rd, 1944.	
Anthrenus verbasci L.	66
The larva emerged from a mounted Galerucella and was bred later. Its identity was confirmed by Mr. Donisthorpe.	
Orchezia micans Pz.	66
Taken rarely at Ryton last July.	
Helodes marginata F.	67
Sparingly at Prudhoe, April 8th.	
Corymbites cupreus F.	66,67
Very local at Healey and Hookergate.	
C. pectinicornis L.	66
Not common, Hookergate.	

HEMIPTERA APHIDIDAE.

Pterochlorus salignus (Gmel.)	66
A large Aphid, forming black masses on a willow in a Darlington garden.—Miss D. M. Clough.	

FLOWERING PLANTS.

Cladium mariscus Pohl. Sedge.	110
In two colonies in Loch an lasgair. Isle of South Uist, one discovered by Prof. W. H. Pearsall who was with our party in 1945.—J.W.H.H.	
Potamogeton pectinatus L. Perfoliate Pondweed.	104
In Loch Dornabec, Isle of Rhum, not really rare; the first record from the Small Isles Parish in v.-c. 104.—J.W.H.H.	
Lepidium smithii var. alatostylum Towns	66
This variety with an un-notched pod occurs on waste ground near the light-house keeper's house at Roker, Sunderland.—J. K. Morton.	
Cakile maritima L. Sea Rocket.	66
Fairly common on the beach between Seaburn and Whitburn: thanks to the protection afforded to it by the barbed wire during the war!—J.K.M.	
Aster tripolium L. Sea Aster.	66
One clump with the above.—J.K.M.	
Sisymbrium altissimum L.	66
In the same locality.	
Atriplex babingtonii Woods.	66
Common in the same station.	

Melilotus alba Desr.; M. indica All.; Campanula glomerata L. Waste ground in front of the lighthouse keeper's house, Roker, Sunderland.—J.K.M.	
Hypericum pulchrum var. procumbens Rostrup. Falcon Clints.—J.K.M.	66
Poa loliacea Huds. Darnel Poa. Abundant on waste ground around North Dock and also in Fulwell Quarries, Sunderland.—J.K.M.	66
Viola odorata var. dumetorum Jord. Under the railway bridge at Hexham, and in a hedge at Shotton near Stanington.—J.K.M.	67
Geranium lucidum L. Shining Crane's-Bill. On an old wall at Middleton in Teesdale.—J.K.M.	66
G. pyrenaicum Burm. fil. Mountain Crane's-Bill. By the Wolsingham to Tow Law road above Wolsingham.—J.K.M.	66
Orchis pyramidalis L. Pyramidal Orchis Marsden.—J.K.M.	66
O. O'Kellyi Druce. Fulwell Quarries, Sunderland.—J.K.M.	66
Ophrys apifera Huds. Bee Orchis. Some half dozen plants in part of Fulwell Quarries in 1943 but no sign of them this year.—J.K.M.	66
Erigeron acer L. Fleabane. Fairly common in Fulwell Quarries.—J.K.M.	66
Callitriche autumnalis L. Starwort. In the upper reservoir on the Waskerley Beck, Wolsingham. A form with very long leaves.—J.K.M.	66
Hippuris vulgaris L. Mare's-tail. Grounds of Belmont Hall, Pitington.—J.K.M.	66
Potentilla palustris Scop. Marsh Cinquefoil. Menyanthes trifoliata L. Bog-bean. Boggy pasture below Widdybank House, Langdon Beck, the latter plant not flowering freely.—J.K.M.	66
Carex maritima Gunn (= C. incurva) Lightfoot. It is pleasing to report that this plant still survives in small quantity on the Links near Seaton Sluice.	67
Galeopsis speciosa Mill. Showy Hempnettle. This uncommon weed of arable land occurred in quantity, associated with both white and red <i>G. tetrahit</i> , in a turnip field by the Kielder Road, near Mounces.—K.B.B.	67
Saponaria officinalis L. Soapwort. This interesting plant has increased greatly in numbers during the past few years both at Birtley on railway banks, and at Chester-le-Street along the Wear banks. In the former station it has never produced seed in spite of its brave displays of flowers.—J.W.H.H.	66
Lysimachia vulgaris L. Yellow Loosestrife. This plant, usually growing along riversides, was found flourishing amongst trees on a steep bank side near Reedsmouth this summer.—K.B.B.	67
Campanula rapunculoides L. Bell Flower. Now quite extinct in its old station on the Wreckenton Long Bank. Lamesley.	66

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BY THE WAY

With this number, as forecast in our March notes, we seem to have regained our accustomed regularity in publication. In order to assist us to maintain this position, we earnestly request the Secretaries of our Societies to supply us with accounts of their various activities by September 15th for inclusion in our next issue, and by November 15th for the last number of the current volume. Notes and records may be sent to Professor Heslop Harrison at any time. All communications should be written on one side of the paper only.

A SPEEDY RESULT OF AN APPEAL

In one of the notes in our March issue, attention was drawn to the desirability of seeking confirmation of many of the old 18th century plant records resulting from the researches of the Rev. John Wallis, M.A., in Northumberland. In particular, a search for the Yellow Bird's Nest (*Hypopitys monotropa*) was indicated as a very pressing need. Very soon after the publication of this appeal. Dr. K. B. Blackburn received a letter from Mr. M. F. Adams, in which he remarks: " Professor Harrison's notes on Wallis and the Yellow Bird's Nest, in 'By the Way', appearing in the Vasculum, have caught my eye, and he may be interested to know that I came across a single, though quite strong, group of this in Rothbury Forest last summer. It was growing in very heavy shade of Douglas Fir on land which had previously carried beech— which I seem to recollect is much favoured by this plant for the humus.

I drew the forester's and foreman's notice to it, although I was not aware it was so rare in these parts. In the South it is locally common enough. It may be difficult to locate the exact spot again, but I think I can plot it to within a few chains, and a methodical search should disclose it later on."

IMPROVING OUR FIELD MEETINGS

During the past few weeks, the usual programmes of field excursions arranged by the N.N.U. have been carried out with

conspicuous success, both in the case of the ordinary series and in those organized for the special benefit of our younger enthusiasts. However, it seems desirable, and possible, more especially in connexion with the former, to increase their value to our members. It is perfectly clear that all who participate in our outings cannot be regarded as specialists; nevertheless, some of our regular attenders are not only specialists, but, in addition, very anxious to share at least a portion of their knowledge with others. The President, therefore, would welcome any suggestions which would help us to take advantage of the latter fact. This would render the meetings more profitable, and further more fully the aims of the Union.

NEW SETTLERS IN OUR AREA

For a considerable number of years, changes have been taking place in our local flora and fauna, more especially in the case of our insects. Species like the Mullein Shark, Golden Ear and Elephant Hawk amongst the moths, formerly unknown, have appeared in considerable numbers. Moreover, their efforts at colonization have been so successful that they have obtained a permanent footing with us. In addition, other forms, represented by the Peacock and Comma butterflies, which deserted us long ago, now seem to be re-establishing themselves.

May we appeal to our readers to send us early notification of any similar occurrences which come to their notice? If all who are able to assist will do so, a useful picture of the movements of many species into, and within, our counties can be built up. Needless to say, observations on all forms, plant and animal alike, will be appreciated.

THE SOCIETIES

NORTHERN NATURALISTS' UNION

The Fifty-third Field Meeting of the Union was held at Riding Mill on May 25th, when once again we were favoured with good weather and a large and enthusiastic attendance. We assembled at Riding Mill station, and took the road and field paths via High Plain to Healey and Dipton Bank Foot and, finally, to the station.

Owing to the peculiarities of the season, for just prior to our visit there had been frost and high winds followed by low temperatures and drought, we found life, both animal and plant, very backward so that we missed many of the forms reported from the area on previous occasions. However, if many of the plants listed failed, we detected others of which the most interesting were the Chickweed Wintergreen, the hybrid between the Wood and Water Avens, Bird Cherry, Sloe, Crab Apple, the hybrid rose, *Rosa sabini*, Holly, the Tuberous-rooted Bitter Vetch, Lousewort, Wood Forget-me-not, Wood Geranium, Butterfly Orchid, various willows, of which the Dusky Sallow, *Salix andersoniana*, was the most noteworthy, and the Adders Tongue fern.

Very few insects were seen flying, but of these the lepidoptera were represented by the Pearl-bordered Fritillary, the Green-veined White, the Small Tortoise Shell, the Fox Moth and the Heath Moth. Amongst the larvae were those of the Northern Winter Moth, the Early Moth, Mottled Umber, Pale Brindled Beauty, July High Flyer, the Large Emerald, the Autumnal Moth, the November Moth, the Figure of Eight and the Tiger Moth. Bees occurred in very sparse numbers, only two species, *Bombus agrorum* and *B. lucorum* turning up. However, two interesting beetles, the Tiger Beetle and the Wasp Beetle were observed. A very important oak gall, *Andricus ramuli* not recorded with us for more than 20 years after its first occurrence in the county, was collected as well as the northern gall-making sawfly, *Pontania robbinsii* found on *Salix adersoniana*.

For our second field meeting of the year, we visited the Sneap area on June 22nd, when the President and Mr. T. Hutton acted as leaders. Proceeding from Castleside Church, we took the route by Dene Howle, Combe Bridges and the Lead Mill to the Crooked Oak Farm. Thence via the Moss Wood we went to Allansford Hall for tea. When we reached Dene Howle, Mr. Ellerington very kindly gave us an interesting address dealing with the rise and fall of the lead industry in the area.

Our walk through woodland and along stream-side proved a revelation to newcomers who had looked upon our counties as a procession of pit heaps and factories, so beautiful did everything appear in the brilliant sunshine.

Still disappointment awaited us, for the previous erratic weather had checked the seasonal development of everything. Butterflies were exceedingly rare as only the Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary added variety to the Heaths and Whites. As for moths, had it not been for the detection of the Scottish Belle, *Ortholita scotica*, recently added as a new species to the British list, the entomologists would have had but little to reward their efforts. Similarly, the flowering of the wild roses, of which *Rosa mollis* was the most noteworthy, with the presence of the Bird's Nest and Frog Orchids, the Cow-wheat and Oak Fern, provided additions to the species observed on our first excursion. Even the usual abundance of marsh orchids was absent, only single examples representing the usual battalions.

As each form of rose was encountered Professor Heslop Harrison gave a short talk on it and its peculiarities, in order to help rose hip collectors later in the season.

At Allansford Hall, we all sat down to a bountiful supply of tea which proved very welcome. For this, as usual, we have to tender thanks to our Consett friends.

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB

A Members' Miscellany on January 29th comprised short talks by three members. Mr. J. K. Thomas spoke on "Light from

Living Things", illustrating his account of luminescence in animals and plants by a chemical experiment which produced a bright blue glow in the darkened room. Miss G. J. Lonsdale followed with an interesting account of the conditions of life in the barren country of the Mysore goldfield. The third speaker was Miss R. E. Dowling, who described some peculiar frog spawn with 3, 4, 5 or 8 eggs in each gelatinous envelope and discussed the possible sequence of events which had led to this unusual state of affairs.

On February 5th. Miss W. Chester told us about her very exhaustive "Survey of Barnard Castle", and the following week Mr. R. Parkin gave a talk on "Tavern and Inn Signs—their Story".

Mr. W. W. Allen's subject, "Biology in the Home", on February 19th, brought to our notice many familiar, and less familiar, creatures which share our habitations. On the 26th, Mr. S. Cardwell gave a detailed account of the topography and other aspects of the north-west corner of the North Riding.

Mr. A. Stainthorpe's lecture, on March 12th, on "Some British Songsters" was notable for the speaker's excellent renderings of the songs and calls of many birds. On the 19th Mr. H. M. Collier spoke on "Some Interesting British Butterflies and Moths", and on the 26th, Mr. A. E. Taylor dealt with "The Birth of an Atmosphere".

The lecture programme concluded on April 2nd with Miss D. M. Clough's detailed and amusing account of the rearing of her rooks, "Corvi and Fru". These pets displayed a magpie-like love of mischief, expressed in such tricks as hiding objects, tearing ribbons, pecking at flowers and uprooting newly-planted seedlings in the garden.

ANNFIELD PLAIN AND STANLEY NATURALISTS' CLUB

The Third Annual Meeting was held in the Public Library, Annfield Plain, when the Secretary, Mr. F. Wade, again reported a successful year. He stated that the membership was now 106, 97 being adults and 9 juniors, an increase of six on last year's membership. The Treasurer, Mr. J. Atkinson, recorded the very satisfactory fact that the Club possessed a balance of £21/12/4. Dr. W. M. Morrison, on behalf of the Club, paid a tribute to the officials concerned.

The election of officers resulted in the appointment of Dr. W. M. Morrison as President, whilst the other officers, except Mr. J. Bailes, organiser of the summer outings, who has left the district, were re-elected. Mr. J. Finney was elected to fill this vacancy.

Our first ramble, on June 9th, brought us to Shotley Bridge, where Mr. J. Dixon acted as guide. He took us to the places associated with the German and Flemish Swordmakers. After exploring the banks of the Derwent, we had tea at Allansford Mill Farm. On June 16th, we went to Muggleswick, when Mr. F. Wade told the romantic story of this scattered hamlet. After tea,

we were invited by the Rev. W. Renwick to inspect his collection of antiques, cut glass and china.

On July 28th, we had a joint meeting with the Consett Field Club. We met at the Bute Arms, Dipton, and explored Ewehurst Woods under the leadership of Mr. J. J. McKinney. On the way Mr. S. G. Jackson read a paper on the "Birds of the Derwent Valley". At Priestfield Lodge, we were entertained to tea by Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Wilson and their daughter, and there Mr. J. W. Dixon discussed the plants we had collected. Finally, Miss Wilson led us around the garden and described the most important plants.

On August 11th, we visited Ushaw College, when the Rev. Father Brady pointed out the interesting features of the institution. Mr. J. Finney acted as leader when we went to Winlaton Mill and Hollinside. He showed us interesting photographs of the departed beauties of the village.

September 8th took us to the Old Castle and Black Gate Museum. Mr. H. L. Honeyman interested us when, as leader, he described the history of the old buildings.

On September 22nd. Canon F. S. Myers conducted our party to Durham Cathedral and told us the enthralling history of this wonderful Norman edifice. He also took us to the Chapter House, where we were privileged to see many treasures connected with St. Cuthbert.

Ten indoor meetings were held, with an average attendance of 45. These were: "An Interesting Ramble in Derwentdale", by Mr. F. Wade; "Bird Observations", Mr. J. W. Dixon; "Rock Formation", Mr. A. S. Davison, B.Sc.; "Alex Barrass, the Poet of the Derwent", Mr. I. Nixon; "Some Old Roads of the County", Dr. C. W. Gibby; "Moorland Birds", Mr. J. J. Robson; "Things Seen and Screened", Mr. S. Hart; "Castles of Northumberland", Mr. C. J. Young; "Evolution To-day", Mr. A. V. Bell, F.Z.S.; "Northumbrian Byways", Mr. F. A. Wills (Vagabond).

CLEVELAND NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB

The Winter programme was resumed on January 23rd with a "Members' Night", when four members gave short talks on their own observations. Four more indoor meetings followed this, and, with additional lectures arranged by the Museum authorities, provided an almost weekly series of meetings in the Dorman Museum, Middlesbrough. Considerable interest was aroused.

On February 4th, Mr. T. H. Brown showed several films. His own film in colour of continental scenes, and a hired film of the "Life History of the Oak Eggar Moth", were particularly appreciated.

Mr. Odling gave the lecture on February 21st. Its title was, "Geology and Engineering of Water Supplies", and it was illustrated by numerous diagrams. Members were impressed by the complex problems of such activities.

On March 13th, Mr. Stainthorpe lectured on "Some Northern Birds". The imitations of bird-songs which he included in his talk were heard with great interest and pleasure by the audience.

An early walk on March 16th from Marton to Eston was followed by the Annual General Meeting on March 30th. Mr. H. L. Honeyman lectured on "St. Nicholas, Newcastle; An English City Church". In the business part of the meeting the following officers were elected: President, Mr. O. C. Hill; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. W. R. Dixon; Hon. General Secretary, Mr. J. K. Thomas; Hon. Excursions' Secretary, Mr. M. Ward.

CONSETT AND DISTRICT NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB

At the Annual General Meeting, the President, Mr. H. Scott, congratulated the Secretary, Mr. W. Ellerington, on the fine array of lectures provided during the past winter. These had been well patronised both by members and the general public. The subjects and speakers were as follows: "My Observations of Nature", Mr. G. M. G. Oliver, M.R.C.V.S.; "The Story of a Glass of Water", Mr. G. Bellam; "The Fortified City of Durham", Dr. C. W. Gibby; "Some Random Thoughts on Penicillin", Dr. K. B. Rogers; "Trees and Man", Mr. A. E. Hart; "The Romance of Plants", Miss J. J. Boulton, M.Sc.; "Exploration in the Hebrides", Dr. W. A. Clark; "Oil and Oilfields", Professor G. Hickling; "Stellar Energy", Professor W. E. Curtis.

The President in his discourse thanked members for their good fellowship and co-operation in making the year so successful, as reported by the Treasurer, Mr. J. J. Robson. He recorded a credit balance of £48/16/4.

Mr. Surtees Armstrong, of Medomsley, was elected President for the ensuing year; Mr. W. Ellerington, Secretary for the tenth year in succession; Mr. J. J. Robson, Treasurer; Mr. T. Hutton, Organising Secretary; Miss E. Caswell, Asst. Secretary; Mr. G. Tindle, Auditor; and Mr. Horn, Lanternist.

Members expressed a desire to wander farther afield during the summer outings, as the war years have been spent in our own district. A visit to the Fame Islands is being arranged and the general organisation has been placed in the hands of Mr. T. Hutton. We anticipate some enjoyable rambles.

NOTES AND RECORDS

NOTES.

An Unusual Form of the Common Tiger Moth.—Of recent years many Tiger Moths have passed through my hands, but, except for one which I have recorded elsewhere and which was characterized by its paleness, and one which I refer to now, none has been worthy of special mention. Recently, however, Mr. G. Coulson, biology master of the Henry Smith School, Hartlepool, showed me a specimen of opposite tendencies. The usual chocolate patches noted on the forewings were confluent except for a narrow pale V in the field of the wing.

Another Occurrence of the Wall Butterfly in Durham—I was

interested to read in the *Vasculum* for December, 1945, an account of the capture of the above butterfly near Sunderland, one in 1942 and another in 1945 by J. K. Morton. I think it will be of interest and importance if I add another record of mine which seems to show that the spread of this insect clearly began a few years earlier, as I captured a male in fair condition in Ryhope Dene on August 27th, 1938.—J. Newton.

The Dragon Fly, *Agrion splendens* Harris in Durham.—In the *Vasculum* Substitute for April, 1942, I recorded as apparently the first Durham record of *Agrion splendens*, a single male taken on a Field Club visit on the north bank of the Tees below Middleton-one-Row on June 22nd, 1940. We have had no further records of this insect until Tuesday's meeting when three specimens were exhibited, all males. One had been collected on Sunday, June 23rd, by Mrs. H. M. Collier, the other two by the Reid Street School Field Club under Miss D. M. Clough, on Tuesday, June 25th. All were from the same district, Skertingham, lying to the north of Darlington. Several more, in addition to those captured, were seen on the wing.

It would seem from this that the insect is definitely extending its range northward, and perhaps it would be well to draw the attention of *Vasculum* readers to the possibility of its being found even further north.—J. B. Nicholson.

[Although Mr. Nicholson's 1942 record is undoubtedly the first printed record, I had Durham specimens from the Teesmouth area before the last war. These I did not record at the time, but they have been noted in one of the entomological magazines since Mr. Nicholson published his original note.—J. W. H. H.]

A Plant Bug (*Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale* L.) New to Durham.—At our meeting on 25th September, 1945, a large greenish plant bug, *Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale*, was exhibited by Miss B. H. M'Pherson, who had taken it on a kitchen wall in Darlington. It was identified by Mr. W. E. China of the British Museum (at Wray Castle) who described it as "a common species on Hawthorn in southern England, extending northwards to Yorkshire and Lancashire. If your specimen was taken in Durham, this is a new county record".

Owing to the artificial "habitat" (the specimen might have come into the house with purchased vegetables) I felt it should not be regarded as a new county record and did not send a note. However, this year, a second occurrence has come to our notice. A rather battered specimen was found by a school girl, Miss E. Pickard, on a gooseberry bush in a Darlington garden in April; perhaps, therefore, the circumstances should be placed on record.—J. B. Nicholson.

Butterflies Noted in 1945.—Although somewhat late it may be well to record that I picked up a dead specimen of the Peacock in good condition in the estuary here (Alnwick) on Oct. 5th, 1945, and that one was observed in the garden on Oct. 8th and 13th. On the latter and the following day, a Painted Lady was also seen in the garden.—H. Tully.

RECORDS.

FLOWERING PLANTS AND FERNS.

Primula vulgaris Hudson. Primrose.	68
Red flowered forms near Lowick, Northumberland.	
Myrica gale L. Sweet Gale.	68
Barmoor, north of Wooler.—G. Hope.	
Fumaria parviflora Lam. Fumitory.	66
In a field near Durham.—E. G. Murray.	
Viola hirta L. Hairy Violet.	66
White forms near Wheatley Hill.	

Ranunculus lenormandi F. Schultz.	66
Also at Wheatley Hill.—E. I. Lumsden.	
Potamogeton obtusifolius M. and K.	66
This species has turned up in some plenty in a pond north-east of Birtley, and as this is probably the first genuine occurrence in Durham, it is proposed to discuss the matter more fully, and to disentangle the nomenclature of the Durham forms with which it has been confused, in the next issue of the Vasculum.—J. W. H. H.	
Phyllitis scolopendrium (L.) Newm. Harts' Tongue Fern.	66
Not uncommon along a ditch south-west of Birtley.—J. W. H. H.	
Ranunculus lenormandi F. Schultz.	66
Abundant in the "catch-water" running into the upper of the reservoirs on the Waskerley Beck, Wolsingham. In a peaty stream on Eggleston Common.—J. K. Morton.	
Callitriche autumnalis L.	66
In the above "catch-water", a good way from the reservoir, is the same long-leaved form as I previously recorded from the reservoir itself.—J. K. M.	
C. intermedia Hoffm.	66
In a pond above Croxdale Hall.—J.K.M.	
Lathraea squamaria L. Toothwort.	66
Three large patches on sycamore and elm below Winston Bridge (by the Tees).—J.K.M.	
Lepidium smithii Hook.	66
Road side, Tunstall Hills, Sunderland.—J.K.M.	
Daphne laureola L. Spurge Laurel.	66
Quite common in the woods by the Tees below Whorlton Bridge. —J.K.M.	
Primula variabilis Goupil (P. veris X P. vulgaris),	66
Near Croxdale Hall, Burnmoor, in Castle Eden Dene and High Force Woods.—J.K.M.	
Solidago virgaurea L. Golden Rod.	66
This plant, which has for a very long time had its only station in the Birtley area on Shadon's Hill, has now put in an appearance on the Target Heap.	
Carlina vulgaris L. Carline Thistle.	66
After a period of decadence on the slag heaps at Birtley, this interesting plant has increased very greatly in numbers during the past four years.	
Illecebrum verticillatum L.	67
Still maintaining itself in the newly discovered station for it on the Akenshaw Burn; plants taken when it was discovered in 1944 are still alive.—J.W.H.H.	

MYCETOZOA

Lamproderma violacea Rost.	66
On a fallen loganberry leaf, partially buried in soil. Darlington.—Miss R. E. Dowling.	
Badhamia panicea Rost.	67
On a log in Jesmond Dene.	
Didymium melanospermum Macbr.	67
On dead leaves of conifers in Heugh Plantation, Longwitton.	
Fuligo septica Gmelin. Flowers of Tan.	66, 67
Not uncommon Cocken Park, Viewley Banks, Hexhamshire. A form with a white plasmodium was found at Little Harle.	
Stemonitis fusca Roth.	67
On bark in a plantation at Temperley Grange, Corbridge.	

THE VASCULUM (SUBSTITUTE)

October 1946

Vol. XXXI, No. 3.

Price 2/6 per annum; post free

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BY THE WAY

Once again we appeal to Secretaries of our Societies to keep us supplied with accounts of their doings as punctually as possible. Now that our printers can deal with material immediately it is sent in, only one cause can produce delay in the appearance of the Vasculum; that is failure to receive the necessary matter from the Societies when due.

In general, our supply of notes and records remains steady and satisfactory, but we should like to emphasize the fact that all contributions of that nature should be cast in the proper format and written on one side of the paper. Further, it should be noted that we can only undertake to print notes dealing with natural history topics. In view of our limitations in space, to send in others is simply courting disappointment.

MR. GEORGE NEWTON ROBINSON

Our readers, especially those connected with King's College, and with our juvenile section, will have learnt with the deepest regret of the death of Mr. George Newton Robinson, B.Sc., on July 12th, in a bus accident at Cambridge.

Mr. Robinson was a lecturer on the staff of the Department of Botany, King's College, an appointment he received soon after taking a First Class Honours degree in that subject; he was, therefore, just on the threshold of a brilliant career. At College, his work was marked by a thoroughness and soundness such as one rarely meets. One could not but be impressed by the pleasure with which he prepared his work and passed on the results to his students. It was easy to see why he was so popular with staff and students alike.

His own private researches were characterized by the same zeal and consequent success, for his investigations into the cytology of the clovers had already yielded fruit which gave promise of great things to come.

He took a very great interest in the work of the King's College Naturalists, and, through them, in the Northern Naturalists' Union. In particular, much of the rapid and smooth development of our juvenile section was linked up with the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Robinson. We speak for all when we tender to Mrs. Robinson and all his relatives our deepest sympathy in their loss.

THE PAST SEASON

This season has been a very curious one in many respects. As far as plants have been concerned, both common and rare species have turned up whenever careful search has been made for them. Some, however, have occurred only too freely; for instance, we are faced with serious consequences if the onward march of the Rose Bay Willow Herb is not checked. Beautiful as the plant appears when in full flower, in the end it proves to be a veritable garrotter. On pit heaps, once clad with wild roses, brambles, gorse, elder and the like, we have now a fearful tangle with the *Epilobium* choking everything. Unfortunately, its "nuisance value" does not end there; later, its cottony seeds are produced in masses to be liberated to add to the chaos its foliage has initiated. In whole areas, once the source of bountiful supplies of blackberries, no one will gather such as are produced; they are rendered quite useless by the clinging masses of fluff. Other plants showing great increases are the Yellow Toadflax, Tansy, the Sticky Groundsel, Mugwort and Hawkweed; of these, some are nearly as pernicious as the Willow Herb.

However, as a set off against this, certain orchids have been observed in enormous masses in stations from which they have been absent for a long time. Indeed, whole areas have been purple with their richly coloured blossoms. In general, the species represented were the Spotted Orchid (*Orchis fuchsii*), *Orchis purpurella* and hybrids between them of varying degrees of complexity. For instance, in the Team Valley, the Spotted Orchid practically disappeared twenty years ago; now, it flourishes in numbers much greater than before.

Insects have been on the wing in sparse numbers, and their appearance has been very erratic. The crop of immigrants has been markedly smaller than usual, only the Silver Y having visited us in any great quantity. Its usual companions, the Painted Lady and Red Admiral butterflies, no doubt came and saw but they did not conquer; the rain saw to that! On the other hand, the Large and Small White, even if late in appearance, have been plentiful enough to have been a real plague; these have almost certainly been the progeny of last year's immigrants and native stocks.

Nevertheless, as will be seen elsewhere in this issue, the season has not been without its compensations. It has provided us with one unexpected moth, the Six Belted Clearwing and a welcome new colony of the Large Skipper, only recorded recently from our counties by Mr. J. E. Nowers.

THE SOCIETIES

NORTHERN NATURALISTS' UNION.

For the third field meeting of the year, and the fifty-fifth of the series, we revisited Hawthorn Dene on July 13th by the kind permission of Col. R. L. S. Pemberton. To this meeting we had looked forward with considerable pleasure inasmuch as the first field meeting of the Union, held there just twenty two years ago, demonstrated, with no uncertain voice, how powerful and useful the Union was destined to become.

Unfortunately, although the attendance was good, it was not what one had hoped for, so bad had been the weather in the previous week, and so unpromising was the day. In spite of everything, we had a very enjoyable and successful time, for during the first, and only really bad shower of the day, we took the opportunity of visiting the pretty little church at Hawthorn village. When the rain had passed, reversing the route of our former excursion, we took the path leading to Hawthorn Towers and through the grounds down to the beach. On the way we kept admiring the masses of Black Bryony and the multitudes of wild roses then just at their best. Still, we looked in vain for the hybrid *Rosa sherardi* x *R. spinosissima* which we had studied so closely on the previous occasion.

When we had managed to scramble down the steep banks leading to the shore, we were rewarded not only by a spell of brilliant sunshine, but also by the sight of numerous butterflies, Blues, Meadow Browns and Heaths jostling in the flowers with an odd Tortoiseshell or two for variety. However, the main attractions were the huge crowds of orchids; of these the most plentiful were the Fragrant Orchid, the Spotted Orchid, the Tway Blade and the Frog Orchis; some of the spikes of the first-named were really colossal. Other plants included the Sand Rue, the Bloody Cranesbill, the Wood Cranesbill, Rockrose, Centaury, Grass of Parnassus, Large Knapweed, Melancholy Thistle, Fleabane, Balsam, Mullein, Marjoram, Thyme, Hairy Violet and others.

After lunch, we determined to proceed up the Dene, only to be met with an unexpected check. The whole of the dene was packed with barbed wire, sometimes simply arranged as "trip" wires, but, at other times, so fixed as to block the passage completely. However, we did manage to get through, and were delighted to discover that, although the cliff had been breached

to form look-out stations, the dense curtain of Hart's Tongue Ferns was as impressive as ever. Despite this temporary success, we found the dene almost impenetrable, for the old paths had either become overgrown or had slipped away during the long years of war. In the end, we only found progress possible by walking up the bed of the burn which, luckily, was quite low. These facts, coupled with the wetness of the vegetation, made collecting very difficult. Nevertheless, we did rediscover the Bird's Nest Orchid, the Enchanter's Nightshade, Dogwood, the Wild Privet, the Guelder Rose, the Bumet Rose, the Mountain St. John's Wort, the Great Bumet, Pellitory on the Wall, Hoary Ragwort and the Giant Bellflower.

At length, exhausted by our efforts, we all emerged quite safely after a very strenuous scramble up a convenient bank side to wend our various ways homeward, feeling exceedingly satisfied with what had turned out to be a very pleasant day.

DARLINGTON AND TEESDALE NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB.

Our summer programme opened on May 4th with a visit to a local heronry. Despite a careful search, we were only able to locate five nests, a disappointing result.

The first All-Night Ramble, on May 18/19th, was chiefly notable for the number of Redstarts seen and heard; and the second, arranged for a fortnight later for Juniors, for the continuous calling of a Corncrake near Barmingham. Woodcock flew over on both occasions; this species is now regularly recorded whenever we happen to be abroad at first light in either Teesdale or Swaledale, though rarely noticed later in the day.

On June 15th we visited the Durham side of the Tees-mouth and found the Common Tern still attempting to breed there, though only in small numbers. Good views were obtained of Shelduck and their young. On the slag-walls grew a curious heath-like form of Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), dwarfed by the fungus. *Melanataenium endogenum*.

The evening of July 4th was spent in the grounds of Polam Hall, examining under microscopes at the pond side the more minute creatures fished from the water. The mollusca found included Lake Limpets (*Ancylus lacustris*), attached to the underside of waterlily leaves.

A whole-day excursion to Upper Teesdale on July 6th was mainly devoted to observation of the relationship between the Whin Sill and the Cleveland Dyke and adjacent rocks. The exploration of Hell Cleugh involved a rocky scramble along the bed of a stream. A month later, an even more strenuous route was followed up a gorge of Sleightholme Beck, near Bowes, in order to inspect an exposure of the Underset Limestone, which here differs very markedly, in its paucity of crinoids and plenitude of corals, from the same rock at Barton.

NOTES AND RECORDS

NOTES

Maternal Instinct of a Vole.—On August 22nd some men engaged in the construction of a new road in a Darlington Cemetery were using blocks of brickwork from demolished air-raid shelters for foundation material. When one of the blocks was moved the chageman, Mr. H. Dickinson, noticed the nest of a "mouse" in the cavity exposed. On examining it, he found six young ones, three of which he took in his hand. Whilst he was looking at them, with his hand still on the ground, the mother approached, picked one up and ran away with it. Afterwards it returned twice to take the other two from his hand. Of the remainder, two had apparently been killed, but she hunted about for the sixth which she found and removed. From descriptions supplied, the animal was clearly a Short Tailed Field Vole (*Microtus agrestis* L.). Three other men witnessed the occurrence.—J. E. Nowers.

Another Colony of the Large Skipper Butterfly in Durham.—It is with great pleasure that I can report that to-day (June 30th) I discovered a small but flourishing colony of the Large Skipper (*Ochlodes venata*) in our county. In view of the need for some protection for the insect for a few years, I do not propose to divulge the locality for publication; it will be sufficient to state that it is in a south east Durham coastal district.—T. W. Jefferson.

The Six-belted Clearwing in Durham.—When I received the preceding note from Mr. Jefferson, I thought I knew a locality, not a mile from this house, in which there was a reasonable possibility of detecting the Large Skipper. However, the only skipper I found was the Dingy Skipper, in spite of very careful search. Nevertheless my labours were not without reward as I discovered the very rare Six-belted Clearwing (*Dipsosphesia scopigera*), an insect entirely new to our Durham and Northumberland list. It was flying over a long bank side yellow with the blossom of the Birds Foot Trefoil.—J. W. H. H.

A Bird Note from Pontop Pike on Victory Night.—I was on the top of Pontop Pike (1,035 feet) on Victory Night, June 8th, 1946, when I could count no fewer than 53 fires. The first of these was lit at 9.45 p.m., but at 10.15 I was surprised to hear a skylark singing aloft, apparently enjoying it all! At quarter to eleven the cuckoo was still calling, after his long day; I had heard him at four o'clock the same morning.—J. J. McKinney.

Butterflies, Birds and Paint Tins in Newcastle Streets.—Butterflies are not so uncommon in Newcastle as one might expect; nevertheless, one does not anticipate seeing the Small Tortoiseshell in Worswick Street. However, on May 23rd one was observed there with a sparrow in hot pursuit. Curiously enough, on the same day I saw a Large White in Northumberland Street also being attacked by a sparrow. The most curious happening of all occurred in Percy Street early in July when a Small White Butterfly was watched as it fluttered outside a plate-glass window, making repeated darts at the variously coloured labels on the tins of paint exposed for sale within. Two of us stood by for quite a considerable time as it persisted in its attacks. Finally, it desisted and flew away.—J. W. H. H.

The Six-spot Burnet still on the Move.—On July 10th, an assemblage of Meadow Brown butterflies was noted behaving in a very curious fashion along the River Team in Urpeth Bottoms. On my approach I quickly discovered that there was an intruder in the ranks in the form of a Six

spot Burnet which was being mobbed violently by the Browns. As I have been accustomed to walk along the stream at this point for many years, and have never observed the Burnet previously, it seems likely that I had come along just in time to note the foundation of a new colony. It will be remembered that, not long ago, I recorded the foundation of a new Burnet colony in the Birtley area. This possible new one has, in all probability, been derived from the Vigo habitat.—J.W.H.H.

The First British Record of the Gall-gnat, *Perrisia bryoniae* Bouche.—Our attention has been drawn to the fact that, in the March-June issue, 1941, of the North Western Naturalist, there appeared a note, from the pen of Mr. A. A. Dallman, with the title "A New British Gall and Gall Midge". This note purports to supply the first British record of *Perrisia bryoniae* Bouche, and includes the remark that "such cecidia will be met elsewhere in Britain if looked for". The latter is no doubt true, but the claim that this supplies the first British record for the species cannot be maintained. It was first detected by Heslop Harrison at Lamesley, Co. Durham, and recorded by Bagnall and Harrison in their "Catalogue of British Cecidomyiidae" which was published in the Transactions of the Entomological Society of London on May 16th, 1916. Subsequently, records for other parts of the country were given in a paper by the same authors with the title "New British Cecidomyiidae"; this appeared in the Entomologists' Record for September, 1921.—J.W.H.H.

The Autumnal Moths in 1946.—As research work with the Autumnal Moths of the genus *Oporinia* has recommenced, early this season an effort was made to collect larvae representing the genus from as many localities as possible. They were found to be exceedingly scarce except in one habitat. *O. autumnata* was detected in a new locality near Riding Mill, but its larvae fell in very small numbers, as did those of its ally *O. nebulata* (*dilatata*). On Waldrige Fell matters were even worse, only eleven *O. autumnata* being seen and no *nebulata*. Lambton Park produced a fair crop of *O. nebulata* whilst at Quarrington Hill the labours of a couple of hours yielded eight.

Nearer home in Long Acre Dene, formerly a very prolific wood, only two were seen whilst the Square Wood at Lamesley Station was very little better. However, two woods in Urpeth Bottoms, not a mile from where I write made up for all these failures. In both, the oaks were nearly defoliated by *O. nebulata* aided by the Winter Moths; in the other, with mixed oak, birch and alder, *O. autumnata* occurred in equally great numbers on the last two trees. In none of the woods visited was *O. christyi* encountered.

The resultant imagines are just now appearing, and they form an interesting group. In the Urpeth contingents it has become increasingly difficult to separate some of the *O. autumnata* specimens from *O. nebulata*. On the other hand, in the oak wood some remarkable forms centred around var. *fimbriata* Haw. have been obtained as well as others coal black in colour. The var. *regressa* Harrison was seemingly less in evidence than used to be the case. From Lambton one was interested to breed specimens, especially females, of a very light form; these were mated with black males from Urpeth. The Quarrington Hill larvae, knocked from birch, were looked upon as possible *O. christyi* on account of their brilliant contrasting colouration. In spite of this, they have given rise to very small and dingy specimens of *O. nebulata*. It is worthy of note that a female hybrid, of parentage *O. autumnata* female x *O. nebulata* male, was bred from an Urpeth Birch larva.—J.W.H.H.

RECORDS

LEPIDOPTERA—BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS.

Hipparchus papilionaria L. Large Emerald.	66, 67
Plentiful as larvae in birch woods near Birtley, but only singly at Riding Mill.	
Oporinia autumnata Bkh. The Autumnal.	66, 67
Common with the preceding at Birtley, but rarer at Riding Mill.	
Operophtera fagata Scharf. Northern Winter Moth.	67
Locally common, Riding Mill.—J.W.H.H.	
Brenthis euphrosyne L. Pearl Border Fritillary.	66
A single worn specimen on Strawberry Hill at the beginning of July, 1943 or 44.—J. K. Morton.	
Selenia tetralunaria Hufn. Purple Thorn.	66
A single male at light at Fulwell, Sunderland, 16/4/45.—J.K.M.	
Deuteronomos alniaria L. Canary-shouldered Thorn.	66
Up the Waskerley Beck and in the Satley and Cornsay areas in September and October.—J.K.M.	
Actebia praecox L. Portland Moth.	67
A single specimen on the dunes at Seaton Sluice on 9/8/45.—J.K.M.	
Cleora repandata var. nigricata Fuchs.	66
Fine sooty specimens common at light in August at Fulwell, Sunderland.—J. K. M.	
Apatele menyanthidis View. Light Knot Grass.	66
Pupae and imagines on the moors off the Waskerley Beck on 11/5/46.—J.K.M.	
Plusia interrogationis L. Scarce Silver Y.	66
Larvae with the above.—J.K.M.	
Hepialus fusconebulosa Goeze. Map-Winged Swift.	66
Flying in great abundance in the hayfields at dusk at Langdon Beck, in June.—J.K.M.	

ODONATA—DRAGONFLIES.

Sympetrum danae Sulzer.	66 and 67
On October 2nd, 1941, I took a male of this species by the lake at Newton Hall, Stocksfield. This record appears to be the first recent one for the county.—H. Tully.	
[Also in the swamp at Birtley.—J.W.H.H.]	
Sympetrum sanguineum Muller.	66
On the old brickyard pond near Ouston E Pit, Birtley, in 1945.	
Sympetrum flaveolum L.	
Near the pond west of the old Target Heap, Birtley. Both of these species are immigrants and new to our lists although I have seen this species on one previous occasion locally.—J.W.H.H.	

HEMIPTERA—PSYLLIDAE.

Aphalara nervosa Foerst.	67, 68
This species, attached to yarrow, and formerly supposed to be quite rare, turned up quite commonly at Berwick and on the links at Blyth— J.W.H.H.	
A. pilosa Osh.	67
Very rarely reported in Britain and only on record for Durham in our area, this form was beaten quite freely from wormwood on the sand dunes between Blyth and Seaton Sluice.—J.W.H.H.	
Livia juncorum Lair.	67
Galls and perfect insects belonging to this curious Psyllid were encountered not infrequently on the moorlands in the Blanchland area.—G. Heslop Harrison.	

FLOWERING PLANTS.

Malva moschata L. Musk Mallow.	68
A single clump was noted in flower on the roadside two miles south of Chillingham on Sept. 28th.—Meirion Thomas.	
Cardamine amara L. Bittercress.	65
Ribes pubescens Hartm. Downy Red Currant.	65
Both noted on Brignall Banks.—J. B. Nicholson.	
Medicago arabica Huds.	68
On railway bank sides at Tweedmouth.	
Trifolium arvense L. Hare's Foot Clover.	66
Although I have been acquainted with this clover on the Northumberland coast for many years, I had never seen it in Durham until this season when I discovered it in the Team Valley near Bewicke Main.—J.W.H.H.	
Festuca myuros L.	66
This grass which, if the "Comital Flora" is correct, has not hitherto been recorded for Durham county was seen in some plenty in Urpeth in July; it is difficult to believe that no one has noted it previously. J.W.H.H.	
Sisymbrium thallanum Gay. Thale Cress.	110
Collected in Hellisdale, Isle of South Uist, and a new county record for v.-c. 110.—W. A. Clark.	
Silene acaulis L. Moss Campion.	110
Also discovered in Hellisdale, Isle of South Uist; this is an important discovery from the plant geographical standpoint as the Moss Campion, hitherto displayed marked discontinuous distribution in the Outer Hebrides; its previously known stations were in the far north in Lewis, and in the far south in Berneray (Barra) and Mingulay.—W. A. Clark.	
Geranium pratense L. Meadow Crane's-bill.	110
Myrrhis odorata Scop. Sweet Cicely.	110
Both of these were found on the machair behind Bornish, Isle of South Uist, but despite the fact that Druce in his "Comital Flora" records the latter from the Outer Hebrides as if it were native, it seems best to suspend judgment on their status.—J.W.H.H.	
Potamogeton procumbens Sibth.	104
Growing near Kinloch Castle, Isle of Rhum; new to the island. Only known from the Isle of Canna previously in v.-c. 104.—J.W.H.H.	
Potamogeton alpinus Balb.	104
Near Daliburgh, South Uist; the second record for v.-c. 110.—W. A. Clark.	
P. gramineus L.; P. pusillus L.; P. millardii (= P. berchtoldii Dandy and Taylor non Fieber); P. pectinatus L.; P. filiformis Pers.; x P. nitens Weber; x P. sparganifolius Laest.	110
All of these were dredged from the loch at Papadil, Isle of Rhum, and all are new to the island. According to the "Comital Flora" all except <i>P. gramineus</i> are new records for v.-c. 104, but we have ourselves reported <i>P. pectinatus</i> and <i>P. filiformis</i> from the Isle of Raasay, when the first records for those two species were made for v.-c. 104.—J.W.H.H.	

MYCETOZOA

Tubifera ferruginea Gmel.	67
In conifer plantations at Dene Raw, Hawick and Little Harle.	
Trichia affinis de Bary, Comatricha typhoides Rost,	67
Cribraria argillacea Pers.	
In a spruce plantation at Little Harle.	
Trichia varia Pers.; T. Botrytis Pers.; Perichaena corticalis Post.	67
Found in Plessey Dene in November.—K.B.B.	

THE VASCULUM (SUBSTITUTE)

December 1946

Vol. XXXI, No. 4.

Price 2/6 per annum; post free

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BY THE WAY

As the *Vasculum* was not received from our printers until late in December, we have to apologise not only for the delay in issuing our October number, but also for the late appearance of the present one. However it should be pointed out that reports from our Societies are lacking in most cases, and that fact is, in part, responsible for the latter occurrence. Once again, therefore, we appeal to secretaries to send us material for our next number by February 28th at the latest. As usual, a reasonable number of notes and records, some of considerable importance, have been sent in. Still, their format in many cases leaves much to be desired. Most have to be recast, and some rewritten, generally because attention is not paid to the simple request that only one side of the paper should be used. It seems almost unnecessary to point out that this involves a considerable loss of valuable time.

MR. JOHN BIDGOOD

The sight of an old letter from Mr. John Bidgood, dated May 8th, 1904, recalls many memories of the early part of the present century. Then biology, as a school subject, was almost unrecognised, but Mr. Bidgood, who was headmaster of Gateshead Secondary School, had already published one of the earliest school textbooks dealing with it. He, with the very able assistance of Mr. W. H. Young, introduced it to this area. We know that Mr. Young rejoices in the enormous progress that has been made, and can imagine how Mr. Bidgood would have felt about the matter.

Mr. Bidgood's letter is signed "John Bidgood, Bot. Secretary, Durham County Naturalists' Union". In this signature we have one of the few records of the existence of what, under the leadership of the late Rev. W. J. Wingate, Bishop Auckland, was once a very powerful organisation. We can remember, with the liveliest feelings of pleasure, the enormous and enthusiastic attendance at one of its summer meetings at the Black Hall Rocks. With the deaths of Mr. Wingate and Mr. Bidgood, the Union faded away.

The letter, which was circulated to all interested persons, bears a very familiar appearance. In it Mr. Bidgood asks for information about the seeding of the Chickweed Wintergreen (*Trientalis europaea*) and the Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*), two problems that botanists, more especially those that are cytologists, have been studying quite recently.

TURTOX NEWS

We have just received the November and December numbers of this periodical, and should like to introduce it to all engaged in biological teaching. It is frankly a periodical devoted to the advertising of goods supplied by the General Biological Supply House, Inc., of Chicago, but it is much more than that. It contains well-written and well-illustrated articles by competent biologists dealing with all aspects of the subject, both in the laboratory and in the field. In addition, there are published, at frequent intervals, pamphlets in which are described and discussed collecting and rearing methods, the setting up of aquaria and other special pieces of apparatus. The whole form a very valuable aid to the teacher who wishes to make contact with new and stimulating methods of approach.

Turtox News, which appears monthly, as well as the Service Leaflets, may be obtained gratis from the General Biological Supply House, Inc., 761-763, East 69th Place, Chicago 87, Ill., U.S.A.

PLANTS AND GARDENS

We have already introduced our readers to this cheap and excellent publication of the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens. Nevertheless, we cannot refrain from noticing the Autumn 1946 issue. It is especially devoted to wild flowers, in particular describing the various ways in which they attract the enthusiastic gardener. Instructions are supplied for the establishment of all types of wild flower gardens, and for the conservation of such flowers in their natural habitats. No fewer than nine articles deal with wild plants, and all are profusely illustrated by a magnificent series of coloured and other plates. Another useful article concerns itself with "Operation Ragweed" which is defined as an "All-out War on Autumn Hay Fever".

THE SOCIETIES

NORTHERN NATURALISTS* UNION

The Autumn Meeting of the Union was held, by the kind invitation of the Darlington and Teesdale Naturalists' Field Club, at Darlington on Saturday, October 13th, when once again we had a noteworthy attendance.

The President, Professor J. W. Heslop Harrison, was in the chair, and our lecturer was Dr. D. H. Valentine, Reader in Botany in the Durham Colleges. Dr. Valentine, who spoke as an

authority on the subject, gave an illustrated discourse on British Violets. He began by pointing out the differences which are generally supposed to separate the violets and pansies, and then passed to a special consideration of the violets proper. Each of the British species was carefully described, and its distinctive features emphasized. In particular, the lecturer showed how fallacious the use of the name "dog-violet" was, for, as he pointed out, independently of varieties, no fewer than three forms, *Viola reichenbachiana*, *V. sylvestris* and *V. canina* appear in our "common" violet populations. He also considered, at length, the peculiarities of the Teesdale speciality, *Viola rupestris*. The lecture was succeeded by a lively discussion on the origin and distribution of British Violets.

After the usual vote of thanks we partook of a very satisfactory tea for which we have to tender our best thanks to our friends of the Darlington Field Club, in particular, to the ladies who looked after us so carefully.

The proceedings ended with the examination of the exhibits brought by various members and with the renewal of old friendships. Among the exhibits was a nice group of bird photographs by Mr. Gordon Wood whilst, once more, Mr. A. E. Hart had on view a novel set of Exakta photographs as well as a number of paintings illustrating various natural history objects. Mr. J. K. Morton produced a well-mounted series of flowering plants, and Miss E. Watson a similar lot of mosses. For specimens representative of another group, the fungi, Mr. J. B. Nicholson was responsible. Dr. Valentine had on display a number of violets growing in pots, and Professor Heslop Harrison a group of campion species and hybrids. A very remarkable stone was brought by Mr. Glendenning; it had been picked up on the Scottish coast and bore a very close resemblance to a face.

CLEVELAND NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB

The season's programme was inaugurated on April 6th with a most interesting visit to Wilton. There, through the courtesy of I.C.I. Ltd., we were conducted over the Castle and shown some of the rock sections which had been obtained from the bore-holes made as part of the extensive geological operations then in progress; later we wandered into the pleasant grounds and woods close by.

On June 17th, we accompanied Mr. B. S. Cran on a Nunthorpe district walk to show us many of the nesting sites he had discovered. Five days later, a visit to the South Gare breakwater was worthy of note on account of the varied flora found on the sand dunes and waste ground, as well as for the great number of terns observed.

Following this, we arranged two excursions by private bus. The first, to Sockburn, was led by Mr. T. Brown, who conducted

us over the remains of the Conyers chapel, and, whilst supplying the historical details of this old ruin, related the legend of the "werme or dragon". The second excursion, on June 1st, was an all-day visit to Upper Teesdale, where the party examined many of the distinctive flowers of the district, and also studied the Whin Sill and other geological features.

On June 17th, when we accompanied Mr. B. S. Cran on a "pond-life" expedition, we recorded Hydra as well as larvae of many species of dragonfly and other aquatic insects. Our interests were further aroused during a walk over Eston Moor, when the Rev. P. V. Allan identified for us the larvae and imagines of a wide range of heath-frequenting lepidoptera. September 7th saw us again on the moorlands at Guisborough; there Mr. W. C. Brice pointed out many features of geological and archaeological interest. Other excursions were made to Gunnergate Hall, Kildale, Staithes and Stokesley; all were successful and aroused the interests of our members in many new aspects of our local natural history.

THE WALLIS CLUB

As most members of the Union realise, the Wallis Club had to relinquish the whole of its operations almost immediately after the outbreak of war because of the evacuation of so many of its members. In addition, we were deprived of our accommodation on account of the "black-out". The present seems a very fitting time for renewing our activities, and a programme will be available in a very short time. If members, with new ideas, will be so good as to communicate them to Professor Heslop Harrison, they will receive full consideration in the preparation of the new session's work. Intending new members will be welcomed, and they, too should write in the same way.

NOTES AND RECORDS

NOTES

The Lapwing Population of West Allendale—For many years I have kept the lapwing on the West Allen under observation, and this season have been surprised at the great diminution in breeding pairs observable. At a certain point, well-known to me in pre-war years and since, I only observed three pairs this year—a figure that compares badly with the 12—20 pairs of former years. This great fluctuation may be due to the ploughing up of certain breeding pastures; on the other hand, it may take its origin in some factors wholly unknown to me.—E. J. Harding.

The Waxwing near North Shields.—I am very glad to be able to report a visit of a small flock of waxwings to Preston Cemetery. They were observed feeding on the berries of some Service Trees growing there. They were exceedingly tame and allowed a very close inspection to be made of their plumage and general behaviour. They were first noticed on December 6th and, subsequently, on the 10th of the same month. About ten in all constituted the flock. On the second occasion Redwings were also busily engaged in consuming berries from the same tree.—J. Russell

The Recovery of the Knotgrass Moth (*Apatele runcicis* L) in Durham.—I have already drawn attention to the vanishing and partial recovery of this moth in our area. Formerly, every patch of dock, harboured a colony, but for many seasons not a single example came under observation. About five years ago, odd examples were seen on bramble. This year, the species has abounded, during a season otherwise very bad for larvae, on bramble and scrub oak, more especially the latter. On the contrary, in the Scottish Western Isles where the Knotgrass moth has formerly abounded on the common iris and other plants, not a single larva, has appeared.—J.W.H.H.

Occurrence of *Juncus x. diffusus* Hoppe at Butterby.—The name *Juncus x. diffusus* Hoppe is sometimes given to the hybrid *Juncus inflexus* L. x *J. effusus* L. (*Juncus inflexus* L. *J. glaucus* Sibth.) Richards and Clapham, in their account of these species in the Biological Flora of the British Isles (Journal of Ecology 1941, 29, 369), state that the hybrid is frequently found with the parents.

It may be of interest to note that in November 1946 I found some hybrid plants, growing with the parents, in a marshy hollow by the path leading from Croxdale Hall to Butterby Ponds, near Durham. There were several distinct tussocks of *Juncus inflexus* bearing ripe capsules, and one or two much larger tussocks in which *Juncus effusus* and the hybrid were intermingled.

In vegetative characters the hybrids resembled the *effusus* parent in length of leaf, and the *inflexus* parent in the somewhat glaucous appearance. In the diameter and ribbing of the leaf, the hybrids were intermediate between the parents; and although the pith of the leaves was chambered, the septa were thicker than in the *inflexus* parent. The inflorescences of the hybrids resembled those of *J. inflexus* but were rather more elongate and spreading. Many of the branches of the inflorescence had failed to develop capsules, but some had done so, and the contents of these were examined and compared with those of the parents. It was found that the capsules of both the parent species contained, with very few exceptions, uniformly good seeds, while those of the hybrid contained fewer seeds, most of which were wrinkled and shrivelled; many of the hybrid seeds were covered with a minute white fungus, probably a yeast.

It is usually stated that the first generation hybrid between these two species of rush is quite sterile. It will be realised that the hybrid described here is apparently partially fertile, though this will have to be tested by germination experiments; it is therefore possible that the Butterby hybrid is a second generation hybrid, perhaps the product of a back-cross with one of the parents.

I have preserved specimens of the hybrid in the herbarium of the Botany Department at the Science Laboratories, Durham, and I have also planted it in the garden. I think it would be an interesting problem to work out the distribution of the hybrid in Northumbria, and to make further investigations of its fertility in different places.—D. H. Valentine.

The Progress of the Elephant Hawkmoth in our Counties.—As is well known, this moth, once considered absent from, or very rare in our district, began to recolonize the area a few years ago. This season it has maintained its progress and larvae have been reported from widely separated areas. Mr. T. Hutton had several brought to him at Consett whilst I had several taken in local clay pits.—J.W.H.H.

The Cuckoo.—This year the cuckoo was heard (by two of us) on April 1st, quite near the river banks at Durham.

Birds Bathing.—I have noticed, as far as the improvised bird-bath (an upturned dust-bin lid) in our garden is concerned, that it is the larger birds e.g. thrushes, starlings, blackbirds, which seem fondest of indulging in vigorous splashings and repeated returns to the water. In

one case I noted a thrush which returned no fewer than seventeen times to have a further splash. The smaller birds (various tits, wrens, sparrows) never appear to use the bath, except for drinking, the only exception observed being in the case of a robin, which often takes a bath, but invariably at dusk. This lack of enthusiasm for the water is evidently not due to the depth of water in the bath, as often in the summer the level falls to about 1 ins. and even then the smaller birds keep away. I have also noticed that the wetter the day, the greater the attraction of the bird-bath.—A.N.G.

An Uncommon Casual near Preston Cemetery.—A fine bush of the Milk Vetch was observed, growing on some allotments near Preston (North Shields) Cemetery on June 15th, 1946. The plant is quite uncommon in the district.—J. Russell.

(Mr. Russell would greatly increase the value of his note if he would state which of the Milk Vetches he encountered.—J.W.H.H.)

Black Larvae of the Merveille du Jour Moth (*Griposia aprilina*) in Urpeth Woods.—For many years, I have been able to record melanic larvae of various species of lepidoptera as being prevalent in Co. Durham. This season, whilst beating the oaks in Urpeth Woods for November Moth larvae, we are surprised to see jet black caterpillars, stretched out at full length in the crevices of the oak bark. These larvae, instead of being protected by their presumably "protective" black colouration, stood out much more prominently than the ordinary typical form. In fact, the first ones detected drew our attention from a considerable distance on account of their deep black colour. This not only emphasizes the fact that the oaks in this melanic area are not smoke-blackened as required by theory, but also that selection plays but little part in the black larvae replacing more typical forms.—J.W.H.H.

Early Appearance of the Small Tortoiseshell Butterfly.—On March 26th, 1946, one specimen was seen in our garden in Durham City, and the following day two were observed on the outskirts of Tynemouth.—A.N.G.

Observations on the Green Hairstreak (*Callophrys rubi*) and other insects.—On May 9th, the Green Hairstreak flew freely at one restricted point in its best known Durham station. Most of the specimens examined belonged to the var. *immaculata*. Mating was taking place, and the specimens noted rested on the whins in preference to the food plant, bilberry. A further curious observation was made. Individual specimens, marked down and followed, returned almost invariably to the same sprig of heather and whin for resting places. Not far away, a Small Copper butterfly, with silvery bases to its wings, disported itself. A newly detected clump of the Dusky Sallow, *Salix andersoniana*, supported a colony of the Hornet Clearwing (*Sphexia bembeciformis*).—J.W.H.H.

RECORDS

FLOWERING PLANTS

Veronica scutellata L. Marsh Speedwell. Several plants (blue-flowered) by margin of a pond near Finchale Priory.—A.N.G.	66
Potentilla palustris L. Marsh Cinquefoil. Plentiful by pond near Cassop Colliery.—A.N.G.	66
Botrychium lunaria Sw. Moonwort. Several plants in same locality.—A.N.G.	66
Pinguicula vulgaris L. Common Butterwort. About a dozen plants not far from the above pond	66

Habenaria viridis Br. Frog Orchis.	66
In the same locality a number of very tall plants, averaging 15 ins. in height.—A.N.G.	
Primula variabilis Group. (<i>P. vulgans</i> x <i>P. veris</i>).	
Several very fine plants in a field near South Road Durham.—A.N.G.	
Lamium album L. White Dead-nettle.	66
A large patch near Urpeth Bottoms with the leaves strongly marked a very deep purple.—A.N.G.	
Previously to my seeing the above note I had observed whole patches of the same plant similarly affected near Birtley. In addition the petals of the whole of the flowers were distinctly pink in colour. I regarded the whole phenomenon as a temperature effect.—J.W.H.H.	
Doronicum pardalianches L. Leopard's Bane.	67
A small patch by riverside road near Stocksfield.	
Cornus suecica L. Dwarf Cornel.	68
In fruit in the Long Crag station, apparently not recorded previously as fruiting in this locality.	
Paris quadrifolia L. Herb Paris.	67
At Staward of August 7th.	
Andromeda polifolia L. Marsh Andromeda.	68
Detected at Darden Lough on July 15th and near Chartner's Lough on August 2nd.	
Vaccinium oxycoccus L. Cranberry.	68
At Chartner's Lough on the same date.	
Filago minima Pers.	68
Harthope Valley, August 8th, 1946.	
Scolopendrium vulgare L. Hart's Tongue Fern.	67
Near Edmondbyers August 6th.	
Vicia sylvatica L. Wood Vetch.	67
Still at Staward.—G. A. Swan and. M. H.	
Vicia sylvatica L.	110
In Hellisdale, Isle of South Uist, the first record for the island.—W. A. Clark.	
Also on sea cliffs on the Isle of Scarp lying off the west coast of North Harris. John Heslop Harrison. (If the Comital Flora is correct, then these represent the first county records for v.-c. 110).	
Nasturtium uniseriatum. Howard and Manton.	110
Watercress.	
This newly described species occurs in some plenty near Bornish along the runnels proceeding from the loch and also at Kyles Stuley in the east of the same island, the Isle of South Uist. This provides the first record for v.-c. 110.—J.W.H.H.	
Potentilla procumbens Sibthorpe.	104
By a strange printer's error this, in spite of correction, appeared as " <i>Potamogeton procumbens</i> ", the plant occurred under trees near Kinloch, Isle of Rhum.—J.W.H.H.	
Rosa mollis Sm. x R. spinosissima L.	66
A fine bush in a hedge just east of South Hetton.—J.W.H.H.	
Orchis purpurella Stph.	68
This fine orchid occurs not infrequently neap Berwick.—J.W.H.H.	
Zannichellia palustris L.	66
This pondweed has appeared in enormous quantities, almost in pure culture, in the old brick pond behind the Station Lane, Birtley. Practically the only other plant present in that great sheet of water was <i>Potamogeton natans</i> L.—J.W.H.H.	

LEPIDOPTERA—BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS

- Vanessa cardui** L. Painted Lady. 66
One at Piercebridge, July 7; two at Darlington, July 8; one near Hurworth, July 11.—H. M. Collier.
- Deilephila elpenor** L. Elephant Hawkmoth. 66
One exhibited at Darlington Field Club, July 16; larvae exhibited August 20 and 27; larvae found on Rose Bay Willowherb at Bolam and Killerby, Sept. 7.—J.B.N.
Larvae occurred freely at Stocksfield in September.—F. W. Gardner.
- Cirrhia gilvago** Esp. Dusky Lemon Sallow. 67
A single specimen at light near Riding Mill.—F.W.G.
- Diarsia dahlia** Esp. Barred Chestnut. 67
A few at light, Riding Mill.—F.W.G.
- Orthosia gracilis** Fb. Powdered Quaker. 67
A single specimen came to light.—F.W.G.
- Dryobotodes protea** Schiff. Brindled Green. 67
A specimen which came to light at Riding Mill is the darkest I have ever seen; in fact, it is almost black.—F.W.G.
- Tholera cespitis** Fb. Hedge Rustic. 67
Two males captured at light at Riding Mill.—F.W.G.
- Nonagria typhae** L. Bulrush. 66
Although, as recorded in the Vasculum, the advent of the Bulrush in the Birtley area is of very recent occurrence, one of the colonies now supports a population of this moth, quite a rarity in these counties.—J.W.H.H.
- Zanclognatha grisealis** Hb. Small Fan-foot. 66
This rather pretty moth is only recorded by Meyrick as occurring as far north as York. It has, nevertheless, been taken in our counties previously. Now it is recorded from Birtley.—J.W.H.H.
- Eupithecia linariata** Fb. Toadflax Pug. 66
Despite the paucity of lepidoptera locally in 1946, this moth, of such recent occurrence with us, appeared in quantities on the fences everywhere round Birtley in July, August and September. Larvae were equally plentiful later on the seeds of the common toadflax.—J.W.H.H.
- Eupithecia succenturiata** L. Bordered Pug. 66
On the fence on the slag heap, Birtley and also in our own greenhouse on July 15th.—J.W.H.H.
- Alcis repandata** L. Mottled Beauty. 68
Quite typical forms taken near Berwick.—J.W.H.H.
- Dysstroma truncata** Hufn. Marbled Carpet. 66
The wholly black form was captured on July 16th on an old fence just south of Birtley.
- Chiasmia clathrata** L. Latticed Heath. 66
This moth is noteworthy inasmuch as it has increased its numbers and range enormously during the past few years. It may be found on almost every waste patch and railway bank side in Durham.
- Abraxas sylvata** Scop. Clouded Magpie. 66
This somewhat local moth, which George Pallister took in Urpeth Woods a year or two ago, has now turned up in the Square Wood near Lamesley Station.—J.W.H.H.
- Abraxas grossulariata** L. Currant Moth. 66
As everyone knows, this common moth is almost uniformly attached to currant and gooseberry, and therefore appears as a serious pest in gardens. Last season, the larvae were beaten in numbers from hazel at Lamesley and from *Ribes alpinum* in Lambton Woods. In Urpeth Woods it turned up at a point where its only food could be sallow. It used to be common on blackthorn near Birtley, but those colonies disappeared with the Blackthorn.