

## 1956 Armitage History MEC and BBS Reprint

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## PREFATORY NOTE.

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It has been difficult to choose salient points in the History of the Moss Exchange Club and the British Bryological Society, and to make the story as concise as possible. The Club was founded to facilitate exchange of bryological specimens between the members ; also for the very important task of making known as fully as possible the distribution of our British species, working on H. C. Watson's Botanical Vice-County numbers for Great Britain, and Lloyd Praeger's for Ireland.

Thus emphasis is laid on these results in each yearly report.

When the M.E.C. merged into the B.B.S. personal inter-course between the members was a most welcome addition. Hence the accounts of the eighteen meetings (1922-1939) with description of localities visited. When possible, obituary notices of members are given. Other interesting dates will be found relating to Bryological publications.

ELEONORA ARMITAGE.

*April, 1944.*

As the first printing is exhausted I thought future members of the British Bryological Society might like to know its early history. I am having it reprinted so that the Secretary can give a copy to each new member.

ELEONORA ARMITAGE.

Foxdale, near Ross,  
Herefordshire.  
*March, 1956.*

A SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE MOSS  
EXCHANGE CLUB and the BRITISH  
BRYOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

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Compiled by  
ELEONORA ARMITAGE  
from the Annual Reports.

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The Rev. C. H. Waddell, Saintfield Vicarage, Co. Down, proposed by advertisement that a Moss Exchange Club should be formed. He wrote to "Science Gossip," December, 1895, "Journal of Botany," February, 1896, and the "Irish Naturalist," February, 1896.

I replied to the "Science Gossip" advertisement as I had been for some years greatly interested in its "Exchange Column" for flowering plants, and exchanged with many botanists. In response, 23 members were enrolled in 1896; the first distribution of specimens of Mosses of the Moss Exchange Club taking place that Autumn, with Mr. Waddell as Hon. Secretary and Distributor, who dealt with 2,077 packets. Mr. H. N. Dixon's "Student's Handbook of British Mosses" was published in 1896, with Rev. H. G. Jameson's excellent drawings.

This gave a start to workers in bryology. The Rev. H. W. Lett's "Hepatics of the British Isles" was in general use. In 1897, 2,267 moss packets and 104 of hepatics were sent in. To encourage the collection of the latter, the printing of the Moss Exchange Club Catalogue of British Hepaticae was undertaken. The York Catalogue of British Mosses had been compiled by J. A. Wheldon in 1889. In 1898 membership had increased to 34; 2,101 mosses and 806 hepatics (a large increase) were sent.

**1896-98.** The Reports for 1896, 1897 and 1898 were published together, including lists of plants sent, and extracts from the Club circulating notebook. The now formulated rules were first published in pamphlet form in 1898, ready for that year's distribution. There was also a Handbook Catalogue of British Mosses compiled by Mr. Dixon from his work. The only survivors of the original members of the 1896 Moss Exchange Club in 1944 are Miss E. Armitage (who was the only

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lady member), Mr. H. N. Dixon, Mr. W. E. Nicholson, Mr. W. Young and Mr. A. B. Jackson. The Rev. C. H. Binstead, who had been one of the most active members, died in January, 1941.

**1899.** By 1899 there were too many members for Mr. Waddell to carry on the whole work and Mr. J. A. Wheldon undertook to act as Distributor and Treasurer, with a number of referees—Messrs. Barker, Ingham, Lett, Meldrum and Nicholson, with Mr. Dixon as chief referee. That this division of work was now necessary is seen in the membership figure of 37, while over 3,000 packets were distributed and full notes published in the 1899 and subsequent reports.

**1900.** In 1900 rather fewer bryophytes were sent, 2,229. The reports for 1899 and 1900 were published together.

**1901.** With 1901 began the yearly publication of the report; more plants were sent, 3,373, including over 600 hepatics. The yearly subscription was 5/-. In this year an important addition of membership accrued in the newly-formed "Beginners' Section," with Mr. E. C. Horrell as Hon. Secretary. Thus was built up a new generation of bryologists, who gradually joined the parent society.

**1902.** In 1902 Prof. T. Barker was the distributor, 3,071 packets were contributed. In the Report he printed only the initials of the contributors, instead of the full name, a useful economy of space, also the dates in figures, not words.

**1903.** In 1903 Mr. W. Ingham became Secretary, as Mr. Waddell could no longer carry on, but he left the Moss Exchange Club firmly established which he had inaugurated and for which he had done so much good work. Prof. Barker reported 2,405 packets in 390 spp. and varr. The first report of Section II, 1903, shows a membership of 30, four of whom were ladies. Mr. D. A. Jones became Secretary, Mr. J. B. Duncan, Distributor and Treasurer; subscription, 2/6.

**1904-5.** In 1904 the M.E.C. distributor was Mr. R. H. Meldrum, 2,518 packets in 542 spp. and varr.; he also distributed in 1905 with 2,259 packets and 541 spp. and varr.

**1906.** In 1906 Mr. D. A. Jones was Distributor. 3,214 packets were sent. He also became Secretary of Section II.

**1907-8.** In 1907 there were 40 members; Mr. E. Cleminshaw distributed 3,408 packets. In 1908 the same distributor dealt with 2,767 packets. In the Report the names of the months are again in words. The new Census Catalogue of British Mosses was published by the M.E.C. and was very favourably reviewed in the Journal of Botany for November, 1907. This is an immense help to local collectors; the Vice-County numbers placed with each species and variety will give a great fillip to bryologists and many gaps will quickly be filled up.

**1909.** In 1909 Mr. H. H. Knight distributed 2,375 packets contributed by 29 out of the 34 members. He inaugurated the placing an asterisk after the V.C. number to indicate a new County Record. At this time Section II was working actively with Mr. W. R. Sherrin as distributor.

**1910.** In 1910 Mr. Knight dealt with 2,749 packets. The new European List of Mosses will encourage foreign collections.

**1911-12.** In 1911 Mr. W. H. Burrell distributed 3,126 packets in 640 spp. and varr., and in 1912 1,943 packets. He thought the hot dry summer of 1911 partly accounted for the diminution.

**1913.** In 1913 the new Census Hepatic Catalogue was published. It was much needed, and a great deal of work was put into it by members. Miss E. Armitage was the distributor, and dealt with 1,668 packets from 28 members. We quote from the Report: "Now that we have completed eighteen years of our existence we find that 13 out of the 23 foundation members still belong to the Club. Mr. Waddell was the founder and Secretary from 1896 to 1903, since when Mr. Ingham has filled the office of Secretary. Mr. Symers M. Macvicar has published his admirable Students' Handbook of British Hepatics with Mr. Jameson's beautiful drawings." This work will give a great impetus to the study of Liverworts.

**1914.** In 1914 Rev. D. Lillie was the distributor, the 2,229 packets included 446 spp. and varr. The referees included Messrs. Meldrum, Nicholson, Ingham, Wheldon, Knight and Jones, with Messrs. Dixon and Macvicar as referees-in-chief.

**1915-16.** The distribution in 1915, by Rev. Dr. P. G. M. Rhodes, amounted to 1,899 packets; in his second year, 1916, 2,084 packets were sent. Mr. Wheldon promises soon to draw up a new Sphagnum Catalogue based on Warnstorff's *Sphagnologia universalis*, and to add some notes on the difficult species. This will help members to study Bog Mosses, fascinating alike in habitat and appearance.

**1917.** In 1917 Miss E. Armitage was distributor for the second time. Owing to the war the packets contributed fell to 1,560 sent by 19 members; 24 members participating in the distribution. In her report the following apposite words were quoted from a letter by William Jack, botanist to Sir Stamford Raffles in Sumatra, addressed to Nathaniel Wallich in Calcutta in 1820. "I think there are few people who have more the means of being independent of circumstances than ourselves, who can turn from any prospect, however dark, to that of nature, which is always the same, fresh and bright."

**1918.** The distribution in 1918 by Mr. Lillie showed an increase of packets to 2,262, while in Section II Mr. Rilstone distributed 1,820 packets sent by 21 members.

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**1919.** In 1919 Miss E. Armitage distributed the packets for the third time; they amounted to 2,129 in 392 spp. and varr.; the chief feature being the very large number of sphagna, which were refereed by Mr. Wheldon. In August, 1919, our founder, the Rev. C. H. Waddell, B.D., died at the Rectory, Grey Abbey, Co. Down.

Mr. Rilstone distributed for Section II, with increase in packets to 2,133 and in membership to 46.

**1920.** Mr. A. Wilson distributed in 1920, 1,708 packets in only 15 parcels from a membership of 39, while Mr. Rilstone dealt with 2,517 packets for Section II.

**1921.** In 1921 Mr. W. G. Travis distributed 1,764 packets. The death of Canon Lett was announced, having taken place in 1920. The Secretary told of his great help to the Club in his writings and with specimens.

In Section II Mr. Rilstone again distributed, with 2,081 packets.

**1922.** In 1922 Miss E. Armitage acted as distributor for the fourth time; only 15 members sent specimens amounting to 1,231 packets. This was a momentous year for the Moss Exchange Club. During the winter Mr. Ingham became seriously ill and had to resign the Secretaryship which he had held with such devotion from 1902, twenty years.

Mr. D. A. Jones and I had much correspondence, and as he was Secretary for Section II, which was now the larger and more active part of the Moss Exchange Club, we both thought the time had come to join forces and launch out as a much stronger, united Society. Accordingly he circularised his members to that effect, while I did the same to the members of the parent society, with three special suggestions. First, that the members should show their appreciation of Mr. Ingham's long services, by contributing to a testimonial; second, that Mr. Jones and myself should be Joint Secretaries for the year, while arrangements were pending; third, that as many as possible of both Sections should meet at an agreed place, to make acquaintance with one another, enjoy rambles together, and formulate a new Society.

My appeal was most successful, thirty-one members contributed £31 10s. 0d., which I sent to Mr. Ingham, as a grateful memento of his invaluable services. I have his letter of thanks from York, 2nd June, 1922: "Dear Miss Armitage, I was indeed surprised to receive the most handsome present which you have forwarded to me on behalf of the members of the M.E.C. I am deeply grateful for the kind thought that has suggested this present, and I hope with it to procure something which may serve as a memento of the years I have spent as Secretary of the Club. The splendid co-operation of all the members has made the work of the Secretary a very pleasant task. (Signed) Wm. Ingham."

This was printed in my Report, and, also, concerning the other subjects, with the concurrence of the Treasurer, Mr. Wheldon, I

stated: "It is hoped that many members of Sections I and II of the Club will be able to foregather at Dolgelly during August, under Mr. Jones' leadership, when an advantageous reorganisation may be discussed and arranged." June 9th, 1922.

Now we come to the momentous event of 1922. The Moss Exchange Club had a successful career of twenty-seven years, from 1896 to 1922, during which an immense deal of spade work was done; organising, printing the indispensable lists of Mosses, Sphagna and Hepatics, publishing a full yearly report of all the plants collected, prepared and distributed among the members. This has added immensely to our knowledge of the British Bryological flora and its distribution in our Isles; and was aided by a devoted band of referees, being the keenest students and some of them authors of the finely written and illustrated handbooks on the subject. So the Moss Exchange Club gracefully made its exit, and immediately reappeared as the British Bryological Society.

**1923.** How this event took place is recorded in the first Report of the British Bryological Society for 1923. To explain what happened I now present Mr. D. A. Jones' letter to the members, on page 8. :—

"Rock House, Harlech. December, 1922. As you are aware, members of Sections I and II of the Moss Exchange Club have been approached in order to ascertain their views respecting the amalgamation of the two Sections. The replies received showed general unanimity in favour. Several members of both Sections, including Miss E. Armitage, Rev. C. H. Binstead, Rev. R. Jackett, Messrs. Bellerby, Bradshaw, Broome, Dixon, Jones, Marquand, Pearson, Rilstone and Watson met at Dolgelly in August, 1922, and at an informal meeting various recommendations were considered and passed, and the following rules were formulated :—

Officers recommended for the next two years : President, Mr. H. N. Dixon, M.A., F.L.S.; Vice-President, Mr. W. H. Pearson, M.Sc., A.L.S.; Foray Secretary, Mr. H. C. Broome. (An annual excursion was to be the outstanding work of the Society, E.A.) Distributors : Mosses, Mr. F. Rilstone; Hepatics, Mr. A. Wilson, F.L.S., F.R.Met.S.; Treasurers, Mr. J. A. Wheldon, M.Sc., and Rev. R. Jackett; General Secretary, Mr. D. A. Jones, M.Sc.; Secretary, Miss E. Armitage. (Signed) D. A. Jones.

All these suggestions were agreed to. Next follows, on page 9, the Report of the General Secretary.

"In submitting the first Annual Report of the British Bryological Society it is gratifying to be able to record a membership of 87; only a few members of the M.E.C. did not join. Some foreign members have been admitted, with the hope that many more may join as the Society

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becomes more widely known. The results of the distribution are encouraging and we anticipate greater activity next year. We deeply regret to announce the death of our Vice-President, Mr. W. H. Pearson and also that of the late Secretary, Mr. W. Ingham. We are all greatly indebted to Miss Armitage for acting as Secretary *pro tem* after the resignation of Mr. Ingham.

Thanks to her courtesy and tact she proved a safe guide during a critical period. The cordial thanks of the Society are also due to Messrs. Wilson and Rilstone for successfully carrying out the distribution. A third edition of the Students' Handbook of British Mosses will be issued about the end of this year. Circulating catalogues will reach members indicating desiderata; no delay should occur in passing them on." D. A. Jones, August, 1923.

Then follow the Distributors' Reports. Mr. Rilstone had 2,609 packets of Mosses, and Mr. Wilson 666 of hepatics; total 3,275.

The full Report of all plants sent in follows and the volume ends with the new but recurring feature of Obituaries. The first was that of our much valued first Vice-President, Mr. William Henry Pearson, M.Sc., A.L.S., author of the great work, "The Hepaticae of the British Isles," in 2 volumes, 1902, describing and illustrating all the British species and varieties then known.

A Manchester business man, he was born August 22nd, 1849, died April 19th, 1923. The second obituary was that of our regretted Secretary, Mr. Wm. Ingham, B.A. He was born in Manchester in 1854, and died in York, May 25th, 1923. He was connected all his life with schools, inspecting, and latterly at the York Education Office. From 1903 to 1922 he worked hard for the interests of the Club and while in office he edited the Census Catalogue of Mosses (1909) and Hepatics (1913) for the M.E.C.

**1924.** In 1924 Mr. Dixon was President, Dr. Macvicar Vice-President, Mr. Wheldon Treasurer, and Mr. Jones Secretary. Membership reached 100. Mr. Sherrin compiled a Key to the Sphagnaceae (published in the Journal of Botany). Messrs. Wilson and Rilstone distributed a greatly increased number of packets, 3,505 mosses and 1,156 hepatics. The referees, to whom the Society owes so much are:—Sphagna, Mr. Sherrin; True Mosses, Messrs. Savery, Nicholson, Jones and Wheldon; Hepatics, Messrs. Knight and Jones. Referees-in-Chief, Messrs. Dixon and Macvicar.

The Annual Meeting and Excursion took place at Buxton, Derbyshire, August 3rd to 10th, 1923. A fair number of members enjoyed favourable weather for exploring such choice localities as Dove Dale, Chee Dale, Burbage and Via Gellia. The obituaries include Mr. Edward Cleminshaw, M.A., born 1849, died 1922. After Rugby and

Oxford he was a master at Sherborne School, until he came to Edgbaston and pursued a business career in Birmingham. He helped much in the M.E.C. from 1901. Mr. Nicholas Temperley, J.P., 1844-1923. He lived in Northumberland, being a business man, with a real interest in natural history and belonged to the M.E.C. and B.B.S.

**1925.** Mr. Symers M. Macvicar was President, Rev. C. H. Binstead, M.A., F.L.S., Vice-President. Mr. J. B. Duncan, Treasurer, and Mr. Jones, Secretary. Mr. A. Sutton undertook the distribution of the Mosses and Mr. Rilstone did the same once more for the Hepatics. The results are now summarised under three heads, Sphagna, 1,688; Mosses, 6,230; Hepatics, 1,227; reaching the huge total of 9,195 packets.

Miss E. Armitage, as Excursion Secretary, undertook the report of the Annual Meeting at Llanberis, Caernarvonshire, August 29th to September 5th, 1924, Mr. Dixon being the President. The district was explored with interesting results. The outstanding excursions were to the Clogwyn du'r Arddu precipices on Snowdon; a drive to Llyn Ogwen for Cwm Idwal; another to Beddgelert and Pont Aberglaslyn; and a day round the summit of Snowdon and into Cwm Dyli. An advance was made now to make the Society more useful from the literary side. Dr. L. B. C. Trotter's generous offer to compile a bibliography of bryological literature and to epitomise serial bryological papers was gratefully accepted, and thenceforward such lists were printed in each yearly report, while Dr. Trotter kept an elaborate card index of every item for consultation by members. Mr. W. R. Sherrin offered to act as Librarian and Curator of the Society and to house its books and specimens at the South London Botanical Institute which he has done ever since, for which members are deeply grateful.

The chief obituary notice is that of Mr. James Alfred Wheldon, M.Sc., A.L.S., I.S.M., who died on November 28th, 1924, when bryology suffered a very severe loss. He was one of the founders of the M.E.C. in 1896 and continued with the B.B.S., acting as Treasurer for over 20 years; he was a valued referee. He was born in 1862. He qualified in pharmacy and after some time in Yorkshire, he went to Liverpool as pharmacist in H.M. Prison from 1891 to 1922, when he was awarded the Imperial Service Medal. When at Liverpool he devoted himself to botany and with Mr. A. Wilson he published the Flora of West Lancashire in 1907. He contributed many bryological papers, and some on Lichens, to the Journal of Botany and other journals. Over 100 such papers came from his pen. He was one of the founders of the Liverpool Botanical Society. We of the B.B.S. greatly valued his friendship and constant help.

In 1925 Mr. Binstead acted as President in the absence of Dr. Macvicar; other officers remained the same, but, in the absence of



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Mr. Jones abroad, Miss E. Armitage acted as Secretary. The distributors were, Mr. Sutton, Sphagna 1,156, and Mosses 4,446 packets. Mr. Milsom, Hepatics 1,109 packets. The Annual Meeting and Excursion took place at Ross, Herefordshire, from August 14th to 21st. The rocky limestone woodland of the Wye Gorge, including Great Doward, Herefordshire, and Symonds Yat, Gloucestershire, were well explored, also the Chase and Penyard Woods, Ross, on sandstone and conglomerate. On May Hill, in Gloucestershire, Mr. R. O. F. Wynne gave an account of the geology of the May Hill (or Llandovery) rock and other Silurian strata. Trelleck Bog in Monmouthshire furnished a very large number of interesting Sphagnum forms. The party, including members and friends, numbered 42.

**1926.** In 1926 Mr. Binstead was President and Mr. W. E. Nicholson, F.L.S., Vice-President, with the same officers and referees. Mr. Sutton distributed 554 Sphagna, 4,602 Moss packets, and Mr. Milsom 711 Hepatics. Mr. Jones issued his report, thanking Miss Armitage for having acted as Secretary while he was in the south of France; he notes that membership has increased to 110.

The second edition of Mr. Macvicar's Student's Handbook of British Hepatics appeared this year and also a new edition of the Census Catalogue of British Mosses, edited by Mr. J. B. Duncan. Mr. Sherrin, librarian, reports that a valuable set of scientific books has been presented to the Society by the family of the late Mr. Ingham. Mr. Duncan, Treasurer, states that the annual subscription is now 10/-, but to foreign and colonial members 5/-.

Among the obituaries is that of Dr. L. W. H. Pegler, who was born at Colchester in 1852. He practised in London for many years as an Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist. He was keenly interested in Botany and other sciences, and in his later years delighted in bryological research, and was a great asset at the annual meetings; he died in 1927.

The annual excursion was held at Ingleton, Yorkshire, at Whitsuntide, and in spite of the great railway strike, 30 members assembled. The limestone pavements on Ingleborough were most interesting, also Crummack Dale, Moughton and Malham.

**1927.** In 1927 the Officers remained the same, with Miss E. Armitage and Mr. Knight as Excursion Secretaries for the Brecon meeting. Mr. Jones, in his report mentions the Handbook of Sphagnaceae with illustrations, compiled by Mr. Sherrin; and also that the late Mr. Tetley's bryological collections have been presented to the Society. Mr. Sutton distributed 206 Sphagna and 4,872 Moss packets, and Mr. Milsom 839 Hepatics. Two valued members have died. Mr. St. John Marriott on October 7th, 1927, well-known among the London naturalists; he was a keen bryologist from 1907 and was also an archaeologist and collected animal remains from the Blackheath shell beds.

Mr. W. M. Tetley, M.A., was born in 1861, and was a schoolmaster in Enniskillen for many years. He travelled widely in Ireland collecting bryophytes. He died at Hoylake, March 13th, 1928.

The annual meeting was at Brecon, Brecknockshire, August 12th to 19th. The weather was decidedly wet, the Usk and the mountain streams were flooded and riparian bryophytes were submerged. The waterfalls were so brimming over that the rocks were unapproachable. The Brecon Beacons were visited twice, and the fine cliffs of Craig Cerig Gleisiad, also the wooded Cwm of the Hepste, and many records were added to the County list.

**1928.** In 1928 the officers remained as before, with Captain Chase and the Rev. W. Megaw as Excursion Secretaries for the Northern Ireland meeting. The distributors were the same, Mr. Sutton dealing with 388 packets of sphagna, 3,870 of mosses, and Mr. Milsom 999 of hepatics, with the same valuable help from the referees. Mr. Jones reported the death of Prof. V. F. Brotherus of Helsingfors. Owing to illness, Miss Armitage was not able to attend the meeting in Belfast, and so, for the first time missed writing the report. Mr. Duncan did so, noting that Mr. Binstead was President; Mr. W. E. Nicholson was elected President for the next two years and Dr. Walter Watson, D.Sc., A.L.S., Vice-President. The meeting was from August 25th to September 1st. The excursions were most interesting, including the Giant's Causeway and Portrush, Colin Mountain, Fair Head, and Glenarriff, all in Co. Antrim. One day was spent in Co. Down on Slieve Donard. Mr. Duncan sent a fuller account to the Irish Naturalists Journal for November, 1928, with notes on the further excursion to Co. Sligo, taken by some of the members, when Ben Bulbin was visited and part of Co. Leitrim.

**1929.** For 1929 the Secretary reports that membership is now 113. The third edition of the Hepatic Census Catalogue has been published, showing a fair number of additional species and a large increase in vice-county records. Mr. Albert Wilson was the editor.

Mr. W. E. Nicholson is the President, but was not able to come to the meeting in Scotland; his place was taken by Dr. Watson, Vice-President. The Excursion Secretaries were Mr. Duncan and Mr. Young. Miss A. M. Saunders now very kindly helps Mr. Sutton in the heavy task of distribution. They dealt with 391 packets of sphagna and 4,005 of mosses. Mr. Milsom had 894 packets of hepatics. The distributors mention a large increase of plants from foreign countries and contributors. Of mosses, over 60 per cent, were British; 28 per cent. European, and 11 per cent. non-European. Foreign members number 18. The referees who do so much good work are Messrs. Sherrin, Savery, Nicholson, Jones, Duncan, Dixon, Knight and Macvicar.

Miss E. Armitage wrote the Report of the Annual Meeting in Mid-Perthshire, from July 27th to August 10th, 1929. About forty

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members and friends were present. The weather in that hilly region varied between wet and fine. The first week was spent at Killin, whence Ben Lawers was ascended twice. Cam Chreag, Creag Lochan and Creag Mohr were also explored.

The party moved to Crianlarich for the next week, and here Ben More and Ben Lui were climbed, also Ben Dourean. Ben Cruachan in Argyll was visited. There were interesting rambles in Glen Falloch, the rocks of Cruach Ardran, and Coire Coille Chium, an old pine and birch wood near Tyndrum. The first visit to Scotland proved very enjoyable. Bryologists who have known the Lawers Flora for years were of opinion that several of the local plants were in less quantity than before, possibly owing to lessening rainfall.

Mr. Jones contributed a short biography of the well-known Finnish bryologist, Prof. Viktor Ferdinand Brotherus, born in 1849, died in 1929, at Helsingfors, where he was a botanical lecturer. He published a large number of books and papers dealing with the bryology of various countries in Asia, Africa and South America. He had a very large herbarium.

**1930.** In 1930 membership had risen to 120. Mr. Jones reported the death of Mr. Horace Monkton, Treasurer of the Linnean Society, in January, 1931. — An obituary is contributed of Prof. Wilfred Robinson, born 1885, died March, 1930. He was lecturer in Botany at Manchester University for many years. In 1926 he went to Aberystwyth as Professor of Botany, working on sea weeds. Mr. Sutton and Miss Saunders report a substantial increase in the number of packets sent in; Sphagna 414, Mosses 5,003, while Mr. Milsom notes a record number of Hepatics 1,412 packets, many of them foreign specimens.

The Annual Meeting, under the Presidency of Mr. Nicholson, took place at Wareham, Dorset, from April 23rd to 30th, 1930; Messrs. Knight and Jones being the excursion secretaries. About thirty members came to study the bryology of heath and bog. Morden Heath has sandpits and bog holes; Studland Heath was visited, also Corfe Castle, the Purbeck Hills and Lulworth Cove. These places showed bryophytes under dry conditions in short turf. Portland Island was visited for the rare hepatic *Southbya nigrella*. In the New Forest, Hampshire, two different boggy areas were explored, the flat Holmsley bog and the steeply sloping, but very wet Matley bog.

**1931.** In 1931 the Secretary reported the lamented death of Mr. A. Sutton who had so well carried on the work of distribution of Mosses. Miss Saunders is now helped in the work by Mr. J. H. Albrecht. A former President, Dr. Macvicar, has also passed away. Also Mr. W. C. Millar, who has presented his valuable collection of Mosses to the Society. It has also been enriched by the magnificent gift by the Rev.

Dr. P. G. M. Rhodes of a herbarium of over 18,000 specimens of Mosses. As the Society could not house these they have been presented to the Herbarium of the British Museum (Natural History) where they can be studied by members.

Miss Saunders and Mr. Albrecht report the distribution of 490 packets of Sphagna, 3,514 of Mosses, and Mr. Milsom the large total of 1,444 Hepatics. Dr. Watson was President at the Meeting in 1931, at Harlech, Merionethshire, Mr. Jones being the Excursion Secretary, but he deputed the compilation of the report to Miss Armitage. The Meeting was held from August 15th to 22nd, with forty-nine members and friends. One delightful walk was from Cwm Bychan, past the lake, and through the pass Bwlch Tyddiad, by the famous Roman Steps, some climbers reaching the top of the mountain Rhinog Fawr. Another day a drive through Barmouth led to Tyn-y-Groes, where many good plants were found by the rushing stream in the rocky glen. Another drive was to Ceunant Llenyrch and the Falls, also Hir Inys (the long island). Then one day to Mochras Sandhills and another to the Artro Valley and Nant Col Ravine. Not content with this district so rich in scenery and bryophytes, some of the members went on to Llanberis for a week, and explored Snowdonia.

**Obituaries.** Mr. A. Sutton was born in 1859, and died on December 6th, 1932. He had worked in H.M. Patent Office for forty years; was an Associate of the Royal School of Mines, and a member of the Royal Institution for thirty years, and was much interested in music. He gave devoted work for some years to the B.B.S. in the exacting duties of Distributor, for which he will be gratefully remembered by the Society, and enjoyed the excursions.

Mr. Horace Wollaston Monkton was born in 1857 and died January 14th, 1930. He was a barrister. He was much interested in botany and geology. He became a Fellow of the Linnean Society in 1892, and was Treasurer for twenty-five years. He studied the Mosses of Bagshot and the Thames Valley.

The Marchese Antonio Bottini was born at Lucca in 1850 and died in 1931. He specialised in bryology, publishing a great work on Sphagna, "Sfagnologia Italiana" in 1919, and in 1885 began his reviews of Italian bryology in "Muschi d'Italia". He is a great loss to the science.

**1932.** In 1932 Dr. Watson and Mr. Knight were again President and Vice-President, Dr. Watson being Excursion Secretary. The distributors for Mosses, Mr. Albrecht and Miss Saunders report a large number of packets of Sphagna, 655, which are so kindly refereed by Mr. Sherrin, Mosses, 2,759. Mr. Milsom reports 1,511 Hepatics. Mr. Nicholson has taken the place of the late Dr. Macvicar as referee-in-chief.



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The Annual Meeting was at Minehead, in Somerset, from March 30th to April 6th, 1932. Dr. Watson presided with nearly thirty members and friends. The date was early, and, as it happened the season was late so the drive over Exmoor took place with the moorland vegetation hidden under snow. A long coach drive, acting as a regional survey, led over Exmoor, Blackdown and the Quantock Hills through Wellington to Taunton where the President entertained members to tea; the return was through Bishops' Lydeard. Next the Quantocks were visited, by Hodders Combe, Halswey Combe, Crowcombe and Stogumber. Then Dunkery Beacon, 1,700 feet, was visited, and the rocky vale of the Horner, full of interesting plants. The Sandhill Flora of Minehead Warren was explored. A long interesting drive by Porlock led up the wooded hillside to the moorland where the Devon boundary was crossed. Descending the very steep Countisbury Hill to Lynmouth; then up the rough woodland to Watersmeet with its rich flora of Mosses and Hepatics among the rocks and tumbling waters. Lastly, a drive by Porlock and Oare to Badgeworthy Water; the stream there, to the Doone Valley, divides North Devon from South Somerset.

At the Annual Meeting on April 2nd the President gave a very interesting address on "The evolutionary aspects of some xerophytic adaptations in the Bryophytes".

A Summer Excursion to Norway, July and August, 1932. A most interesting account of this journey is given in the Report by Mr. C. V. B. Marquand who organised and conducted it. The members of the B.B.S. who accompanied him had a very strenuous time. They went far north and climbed many mountains. The Lyngen Peninsula was especially attractive. They touched Lapland and Sweden, and further south, the Dovrefjeld and the Jotunheim. They returned with much very rare and interesting material in bryophytes, and enjoyed seeing the Arctic-Alpine flowering plants in great profusion.

Obituary. Dr. Symers Macdonald Macvicar was born at Moffat in 1857, and died at his home at Invermoidart in 1932. He was educated as a doctor and went on many ships in that capacity, but after his marriage in 1887 he settled down at home and rarely left it, devoting himself to local botany. Besides papers on flowering plants in Scottish Journals, he published in the Journal of Botany in 1889 "The Hepaticae of Moidart, West Inverness", and in 1901 in the same journal, "A Key to British Hepaticae". In 1910 came "The Distribution of Hepaticae in Scotland" and in 1912 "The Students' Handbook of British Hepaticae"; a revised edition of this invaluable work appeared in 1926. He was a past-President of the B.B.S., and was always most helpful to students who sent specimens to him for naming.

**1933.** In 1933 Messrs. Knight and Jones were President and Vice-President. The Excursion Secretaries for the Lake District meeting

were Messrs. Young and Jones. The Secretary notes the addition of the name of Dr. Alexander W. Evans of Yale University, Newhaven, U.S.A. to our honorary members for his splendid work on Hepatics.

He also notes the death of Mr. Meldrum, one of the original members of the M.E.C. The distributors report the receipt of a very large number of packets. Mr. Albrecht and Miss Saunders have 504 Sphagna and 4,446 Mosses; and Mr. Milsom 1,412 packets of Hepatics. As always, the Treasurer, Mr. Duncan, presents a fine statement of accounts; he keeps the Society with a healthy balance. The Annual Meeting was held at Portinscale, Cumberland, from August 29th to September 5th, 1933, with Mr. Knight as President. From this position both the Lake Counties could be explored. About forty members and friends enjoyed the glorious weather and fine excursions. The rocky gorge and steep woodlands of Lodore were first visited, going thence to Watendlath and down to Rosthwaite. By motor coach from Keswick parts of Westmorland were visited, by way of Thirlmere, Grasmere and Rydal; up Great Langdale to Dungeon Gill and Force. Another day to Seatoller with rare plants among the woods. Next day by Braithwaite up the long Cole Dale to the Pass; but here the well-known mists of Grass Moor descended and caused difficulty in the Hobcarton precipices. Others climbing Scafell were similarly hindered. Next up Hause Gill and Stonethwaite along the beck and hillsides. The Rev. C. H. Binstead has thoroughly studied this district and was most helpful in the excursions, but the B.B.S. did add a few records for V.C.'s 69 and 70.

Dr. Trotter, as usual, contributes several pages of recent Bryological Publications.

Obituaries. James Groves, born 1850, died 1933. Mr. Groves, with his brother Henry, who died in 1912, was the world authority on Charaphyta. He was long a member of the B.B.S., knew Mosses and Hepatics, and had collected the rarer bryophytes on Ben Lawers nearly half a century ago. He retired from business to the Isle of Wight in 1918, and was active in natural history pursuits.

Robert Hunt Meldrum was born at Tibbermore, Perthshire, in 1858, and died in 1933. He was a schoolmaster for many years. In 1884 he joined the Perthshire Society of Natural Science and there arranged a magnificent collection of Mosses after years of collection and observation. He bequeathed a duplicate collection to the herbarium of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh. He climbed the Perthshire mountains finding new records, and in 1882 visited the Continent of Europe, even as far as Russia.

**1934.** As before, in 1934 the President and Vice-President were Messrs. Knight and Jones. The Excursion Secretaries were Messrs. Milsom and Burrell. The Hon. Secretary announced the deaths of Dr. Rhodes, Herr Loeske, Rev. R. Jackett and Miss I. M. Roper.

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A large number of packets came for the distribution. Miss Saunders was helped by Mr. W. C. R. Watson, and had 218 Sphagna, and 3,332 Moss packets, many of which came from Java, China, the Philippines, also the U.S.A., Canada, Brazil, etc. Mr. Bedford undertook the Hepatics, of which there were 1,340 packets, with a good many specimens from India and the Dutch East Indies.

Mr. Sherrin is now helped in refereeing Sphagna by Messrs. Horsley, Thompson and Miss Lobley. The Annual Meeting was held at Ingleton, Yorkshire, from August 11th to 18th, 1934, with Mr. Knight as President. Over thirty members and friends came, though it was the second visit; the first was in 1926; so there were not many new records; but there were several interesting rambles, under the guidance of Yorkshire bryologists, Messrs. Milsom, Burrell and C. A. Cheetham. These were pleasant additions to the party, knowing the localities and plants so well. The limestones from Austwick by Oxember and Moughton were explored, also Helwith Moss. For gritstone and limestone and their mosses, Penyghent was climbed from Horton-in-Ribblesdale. Then a day in the Ingleton Glens with their rushing water and falls, starting up the River Doe, crossing the top of the Glen and returning by the River Twiss. A day was spent in Lancashire, by High Bentham to Hindburndale, amid moor and bog, wood and stream by Moorcock. Then Clapdale, by Chapham and Ingleborough, lastly the Bolton Woods by the Wharfe, with the famous sheet of millstone grit at the Strid, and so on to Bolton Abbey.

Now follow the obituaries. Leopold Loeske was born in 1865, and died in Berlin in 1935. He was one of the foremost European bryologists. He published several works, including a Moss Flora of the Harz, and monographs on some genera of Mosses. In 1925 he was made an honorary member of the B.B.S. in recognition of the help he gave the Society.

Philip Grafton Mole Rhodes was born in 1885 and died in 1934 at Evesham. He became a Roman Catholic, a Doctor of Divinity, and a Professor at Oscott College, Birmingham. He was a keen botanist, elected F.L.S. in 1925, and was a member of the B.B.S. for many years. His wide knowledge of Bryophytes, Lichens and Fungi made him a welcome companion at the meetings, and he contributed many specimens both British and foreign to the distributions.

**1935.** In 1935 Mr. Jones was President and Mr. Duncan Vice-President; Mr. Jones being the Excursion Secretary for the Killarney meeting. The death of Mr. Bellerby of York was announced. The packets sent for distribution were less numerous than of late. The Moss distributors, Miss Saunders, Messrs. W. C. R. Watson and E. C. Wallace dealt with 313 Sphagna, and 2,131 packets of Mosses; Mr. Bedford reported 725 of Hepatics. Owing to illness, Miss Armitage was

again prevented attending an Irish meeting. Dr. W. Watson wrote the report of the Annual Meeting, held at Muckcross, Killarney, from August 10th to 17th, 1935. This was first published, as usual, in the Journal of Botany, by the kindness of the Editor, and copied into the B.B.S. Report. Twenty-five members attended, and after the meeting fifteen members and friends went on to Dingle, Sleah Head and Brandon mountain. An account appeared also in the *Irish Naturalists' Journal*. Help was rendered by Irish friends, Messrs. Bradshaw, Cronin and Lloyd Praeger in the excursions, and Major Phelps was thanked for giving leave to explore the Muckcross Demesne (National Park). Mr. Jones gave a general description of the localities where rare bryophytes occur, such as are at home in this damp warm climate, with carboniferous limestone and siliceous rocks. *Daltonia* was seen on Torc mountain. Mangerton was a fine climb, including the Devil's Punch Bowl. Other places visited were Dinish, Cromaglow and O'Sullivan's Cascade, and many interesting plants were found. The rare flowering plants were also sought after.

**1936.** In 1936 Mr. Jones was President, but owing to serious ill health he was unable to be present at the Cheltenham meeting, the Vice-President, Mr. Duncan, took his place. Mr. Knight was the Excursion Secretary.

The distributors, Miss Saunders and Mr. Wallace noted plants sent by members in Europe, and North America. 487 packets of Sphagna were received and 2,903 of Mosses.

Mr. Bedford distributed 1,168 packets of Hepatics. The referees did good work. The Annual Meeting at Cheltenham, from May 29th to June 5th, 1936, was a small one, about twenty members were present. The weather, for the time of year was cold and stormy with heavy thunder showers, rather spoiling the rambles. Mr. Knight, whose knowledge of the bryophytes of the district is unrivalled, had planned a series of interesting excursions. First to the Whittington hills, and by Puckham Wood to Sevenhampton Marsh and Northlench. Then a ramble to the summit of Cleeve Hill, 1,070 feet. The drive through Painswick to the woods above Kings Stanley (where the rain was too heavy for work) led to Uley Downs, where two very interesting archaeological sites were visited. The large earth work of Uley Camp, and Uley Long Barrow, containing five sepulchral rock chambers, 6 feet high, entered by a low stone doorway 2½ feet square. Two visits were paid to the Forest of Dean; first to Wigpool Common, with small Sphagnum bogs, rare in the Forest. Next to Staunton and the Buckstone and down to Tintern. A drive over the Cotswolds led by the river Windrush to Lower Guiting; later passing Stow-on-the-Wold, Burford, Bibury and back through Cirencester. At the Annual Meeting, Mr. Duncan was elected President and Treasurer and Miss E. Armitage

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Vice-President, Mr. A. Thompson was elected as Hon. Secretary, an office he has very kindly taken over from Mr. Jones, who had to resign after so long a term, owing to serious illness. Mr. Thompson has done much work with Sphagna since he joined the Society in 1931. Mr. Jones died in October, 1936, and Mr. Thompson's first report as Secretary is published in the same B.B.S. Report for 1936, but is dated April, 1937. He notes that a new list of V.C. records of Mosses and Hepatics, received since the publication of the supplements to the Census Catalogues, is published in this Report. An obituary, with portrait, of the late David Angell Jones, is contributed by Dr. Watson. Mr. Jones had held the responsible post of Hon. Secretary of the B.B.S. ever since its formation in 1922, until his severe illness in 1936. The Society has always been grateful to him for his devoted labours. He was born in Liverpool in August, 1861, and died at Bristol on October 6th, 1936. He was a schoolmaster in Wales for many years, mostly at Harlech, and became an authority on the Flora of Caernarvonshire and Merionethshire. Then he devoted himself to Bryophytes, and was a wonderful and most interesting guide in the field, with his keen eye and acute knowledge of habitats of bryophytes, especially on crag and moor. He was first connected with the M.E.C. Section II, and later, was the prime mover in the B.B.S. and had a vast correspondence helping all enquirers. Latterly he was interested in lichens. He was largely responsible for the great advance in this century in the knowledge of the distribution of bryophytes. In recognition of his work in North Wales he was made an M.Sc. in 1922, and A.L.S. in 1925. His manuscript Flora of Caernarvon and Merioneth, has been deposited in the National Museum of Wales at Cardiff. Another obituary is that of Mr. William Bellerby of York, born in 1852, who died in March, 1936. His business was that of a timber merchant. He was a valued citizen of York, with many interests, and was keenly occupied with the B.B.S., having joined the M.E.C. Section II, and for more than thirty years he contributed to the Annual Exchange.

**1937.** In 1937 Mr. Duncan was President and Miss E. Armitage Vice-President. The Excursion Secretary was Miss M. Weightman, M.Sc.; Mr. Thompson, Hon. Secretary. The distributors, Miss Saunders and Mr. Wallace, reported a smaller distribution than of late of Moss packets, and Mr. Bedford found the same with Hepatics; in both categories there were welcome contributions from North Europe. Sphagna numbered 421, Mosses, 1,644, and Hepatics, 619 packets. Mr. Crosland and Dr. P. Richards have joined our hard-working group of referees. The Annual Meeting was held at Bundoran, Co. Donegal, Ireland, from June 19th to 26th, 1937, Mr. Duncan being President. About twenty members and friends came, of whom thirteen went on to Achill Island, Co. Mayo, for another week. In East Donegal the Bundoran sandhills were explored, and two excursions were made up

the River Erne from Ballyshannon and Belleek, the latter included a small area of Co. Fermanagh. The chief interest was centred in the Dartry mountains in Co. Leitrim and Co. Sligo, with the attractive valleys of Gleniff with Annacoona rocks, Sligo; and Glenade, Leitrim. The huge bluff of Ben Bulbin, facing towards the Atlantic, with wet grassy slopes and a great curved wall of precipitous rock near the summit, taxed the climbing powers of the bryologists, though the cliff top was but 1,500 feet, and the grassy summit 1,700 feet. On Achill Island the bogland near Dugort and the cliffs, corries and rocks of Slievemore (2,204 feet) were interesting. Croaghnaun has precipices of over 1,000 feet. At Keel and Dooagh were sandy stretches of beach.

Mr. Thompson presented a long list of new County records of Sphagna, and a good many Mosses and Hepatics were added to the Vice-Counties visited, while Mr. Dixon contributed some valuable notes on some critical plants.

**Obituary.** Mr. George Brooke Savery was born in 1874, and died in November, 1937. He was associated with the M.E.C. and B.B.S. for nearly thirty years and was a most useful referee.

Though a native of Yorkshire and trained as a civil engineer, he was prevented by illness from leading an active life and lived at Silverton, Devonshire, for many years and was devoted to gardening. He worked much with the microscope and was most helpful to bryological correspondents.

Dr. P. Richards sent a note recording the occurrence, at Derry-cunihy Wood near Killarney, Ireland, of a hepatic allied to *Blepharostoma*, *Telaranea nematodes* (Gottsche) Howe, once before found at Waterville, Co. Kerry, in 1935, by Dr. Buch of Helsingfors.

**1938.** In 1938 Mr. Duncan completed his two years as President. Dr. Trotter had to resign his fine work as Bibliographer owing to lack of time; Mr. Marquand kindly carries it on. Membership of the B.B.S. is now 102; last year it was 107. There was an increase in the number of packets sent in for distribution, especially in Sphagna, the list was compiled by Mr. Horsley.

Miss Saunders and Mr. Wallace also dealt with 1,902 Mosses, and Mr. Bedford with 571 Hepatics. Additional V.C. records are published in the report; also a paper on the bryophyta of Harris, Outer Hebrides, visited in April, 1938, by Miss Wigglesworth, Dr. Trotter and Mr. Marquand, containing lists of new records for V.C. 110. The Secretary draws attention to Mr. Dixon's most valuable paper on "Prospective Changes in nomenclature of British Mosses", which will be necessitated by the adoption of the "Species Muscorum" of Hedwig as the starting point of Mosses. In this report Mr. Dixon gives a tabulated list

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I have taken pleasure in securing the autographs of our members at each successive meeting and look upon the collection as a treasured possession.

At the request of the Secretary, Mr. Knight and I had been to Aberystwyth in May, 1940, to make preliminary plans for our meeting that year. But, of course, it proved impossible, and now my old friend, Mr. Knight, has passed away, on January 4th, 1944, at Cheltenham, and the following day, January 5th, 1944, Mr. Bradshaw died in Dublin. The Society has lost two keen and valued members ; and I wrote on its behalf, to condole with Mrs. Bradshaw.

Our Secretary, Mr. A. Thompson, has put in hand the collection of photographs of members and scenes, for an album.

I hope most of the members will be represented. I may mention one, of special interest to myself, which was taken by our American friend, Dr. Winona Welch. It was during the Llangollen meeting, when Mr. Knight drove Dr. Welch, Mr. Dixon and myself to see a fine section of Offa's Dyke, near Chirk, where it is a steep lofty bank crowned with trees, mostly Scots Pines.

Dr. Welch posed us three, seated on the Dyke, the ancient monument ; as representative of the oldest members, not only in date of membership, but also, I fancy, in years. I wrote to her, and asked her to send a print for Mr. Thompson's collection, which she has kindly done.

## APPENDIX I.

### LIST OF PLACES VISITED BY THE B.B.S.

1. 1922.—DOLGELLY (Society founded).
2. 1923.—BUXTON, Derbyshire.
3. 1924.—LLANBERIS, Caernarvonshire.
4. 1925.—ROSS, Herefordshire.
5. 1926.—INGLETON, Yorkshire.
6. 1927.—BRECON, Brecknockshire.
7. 1928.—BELFAST, Ireland.
8. 1929.—KILLIN and CRIANLARICH, Perthshire.
9. 1930.—WAREHAM, Dorset.
10. 1931.—HARLECH, Merionethshire.
11. 1932.—MINEHEAD, Somerset.
12. 1933.—PORTINSCALE, Cumberland.
13. 1934.—INGLETON, Yorkshire.
14. 1935.—MUCKROSS, KILLARNEY, Ireland.
15. 1936.—CHELTENHAM, Gloucestershire.
16. 1937.—BUNDORAN, Co. Donegal, Ireland.
17. 1938.—LLANGOLLEN, Denbighshire.
18. 1939.—FORT WILLIAM, Inverness-shire.

**APPENDIX II.**

**LIST OF CATALOGUES OF BRITISH MOSSES AND  
HEPATICS.**

- 1.—THE YORK CATALOGUE OF BRITISH MOSSES, compiled by J. A. Wheldon. 1889.
- 2.—THE MOSS EXCHANGE CLUB CATALOGUE OF BRITISH HEPATICAЕ, compiled by the Rev. C. H. Waddell. 1897. (also additions to same, no date).
- 3.—HANDBOOK CATALOGUE OF BRITISH MOSSES, by H. N. Dixon. 1897.
- 4.—MOSS EXCHANGE CLUB CENSUS CATALOGUE OF BRITISH HEPATICS, compiled by Symers M. Macvicar. 1905.
- 5.—MOSS EXCHANGE CLUB CATALOGUE OF BRITISH MOSSES, various compilers. 1907.
- 6.—SECOND EDITION, CENSUS CATALOGUE OF BRITISH HEPATICS, various compilers. 1913.
- 7.—SYNOPSIS OF BRITISH SPHAGNA, J. A. Wheldon. 1919.
- 8.—CENSUS CATALOGUE OF BRITISH MOSSES FOR THE BRITISH BRYOLOGICAL SOCIETY, 2nd edition, compiled by J. B. Duncan. 1926.
- 9.—CENSUS CATALOGUE OF BRITISH HEPATICS FOR THE BRITISH BRYOLOGICAL SOCIETY, 3rd edition, compiled by A. Wilson, F.L.S. 1930.
- 10.—CENSUS CATALOGUE OF THE BRITISH SPHAGNA, W. R. Sherrin. 1937.

**APPENDIX III.**

**BOOKS ON MOSSES AND HEPATICS.**

- 1.—THE STUDENTS' HANDBOOK OF BRITISH MOSSES, H. N. Dixon. 1896. Second edition, 1904. Third edition, 1924.
- 2.—HEPATICS OF THE BRITISH ISLANDS, H. W. Lett. 1902.
- 3.—HEPATICS OF THE BRITISH ISLES, W. H. Pearson. 1902.
- 4.—DISTRIBUTION OF HEPATICAЕ IN SCOTLAND, S. M. Macvicar. 1910.
- 5.—THE STUDENTS' HANDBOOK OF BRITISH HEPATICS, S. M. Macvicar. 1912. Second edition, 1926.
- 6.—AN ILLUSTRATED HANDBOOK OF THE BRITISH SPHAGNA. W. R. Sherrin. 1927.