

In his address to the Botanical Section, Mr. A. J. Wilmott spoke on the "Endemic Flora of Britain". He controverted the generally-accepted theory that the flora of Britain was exterminated in the Ice Age some ten thousand years ago. He held that at its height there were probably many nunataks where plants took refuge, apart from those parts of southern England which were never in their entirety and at one and the same time covered by ice. In addition, there were four interglacial periods during which there was amelioration of climate, when plants could obtain any foothold that they had lost during the severe periods of glaciation. Considerable migration from place to place was evident, during which there was possibly an "orgy of variation". It was mentioned that ten years' work on the compilation of a new flora of Sussex, commenced at the Hastings Congress in 1927, had now brought publication within view, and subscribers and contributions towards publication were needed.

In the Zoological Section, Lord Mansfield gave an address on "Bird-Ringing and Bird Migration". He said that a very small proportion of rings is ever returned, and an endeavour is to be made to reach the peasantry of various lands who never read pamphlets or newspapers, and thus know nothing of the value of the rings that they collect. Experiments he had made have shown that it is not only the desire to avoid cold climates that gives the impetus to migration. A canary and other birds when supplied with food have been seen feeding in the snow in Canada. Birds kept in an aviary have been found to wake up at night, whenever an electric light was turned on, and feed eagerly, birds' digestions being of a rapid nature. Food is what migrants have in view rather than the avoidance of cold. Reference was made to the endeavour now being carried out to induce the breeding of storks in England, and a report promised for next year's Congress. Mr. E. M. Nicholson spoke on the progress of the British Trust for Ornithology.

Of considerable interest and value is the report of the Insect Immigration Committee, conducted under the energetic guidance of Capt. T. Dannreuther. Observers all around the coast have been enlisted in this work, including by permission of Trinity House the occupants of lighthouses and lightships. The greater number of observations of the presence of certain butterflies and moths on land do not demonstrate migratory movements, and thus those made at sea or by the shore have the greater value. Actual movements in definite directions are greatly needed, and thus continuous watch by observers is asked for. In May 1933, undoubted immigrations were noted of *Vanessa atalanta*, which were seen arriving from over the sea on the south coast. These established themselves as far north as Thurso. After September they decreased rapidly in the north, but became more common in the south than at the height of summer. In 1935 the decline in the north was more gradual. *Cardui* (painted ladies) were scarce in 1933 in the Highlands, though common in southern Scotland, and it was noticeable that when they had disappeared, *V. atalanta* still remained common. Much work remains still to be done, and additional observers are needed in this fascinating work.

In the Geological Section, Dr. Dighton Thomas read a paper on "Geology and the Community", and showed how the science touches the common interests of all classes. Much money has been wasted in the past in the search for water, coal and oil, where a

little geological knowledge would have avoided the waste. Municipalities are not even now alive to the necessity of taking expert advice about such matters.

Many excursions were made to places of scientific interest. Archaeologists visited the Cotswold churches of Fairford, Bibury, Burford and Faringdon. Botanists and zoologists went to the Ruskin Reserve at Cothill, where marsh, fen and aquatic plants were found. Three rounds of visits were made to Oxford colleges, the Bodleian, the Sheldonian, and the Museum of the History of Science, where Dr. R. T. Gunther explained the treasures of the Old Ashmolean.

It was announced that the Congress in 1937 would be held at Hastings under the presidency of Prof. F. E. Weiss, formerly George Harrison professor of botany in the University of Manchester.

Educational Topics and Events

BIRMINGHAM.—At the annual degree congregation, honorary degrees were conferred on Mr. W. B. Grove, a well-known mycologist, and Mr. A. E. Hills, a Birmingham manufacturer to whose generosity the University owes the new chemistry building now being erected.

CAMBRIDGE.—T. R. B. Sanders, of Corpus Christi College, has been appointed University lecturer in engineering.

W. W. Brigden, of King's College, has been elected to the Marmaduke Sheild Scholarship in anatomy. Frank Smart Prizes have been awarded to G. Metcalfe, of Clare College (Botany), and E. T. Burt, of King's College (zoology).

At Magdalene College, Dr. D. W. Babbage, research fellow of the College and University lecturer in mathematics, has been elected into an official fellowship.

EDINBURGH.—At a graduation ceremonial on July 3 the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred on the following, among others: Sir Thomas Hudson Beare, professor of engineering and dean of the Faculty of Science in the University; Sir William W. McKechnie, lately secretary to the Scottish Educational Department; Prof. Edward L. Thorndike, professor of education, Teachers' College, Columbia University, New York.

OXFORD.—Dr. J. H. C. Thompson, research fellow of Merton College, and formerly of New College, has been elected fellow of Wadham College and lecturer in mathematics—a new appointment.

ST. ANDREWS.—Mr. John N. Wright has been appointed to the chair of logic and metaphysics, vacated by Prof. G. F. Stout. Mr. Wright was appointed assistant to Prof. Stout in the United College in 1920, and in 1924 became lecturer in philosophy in University College, Dundee.

Mr. T. Malcolm Knox, fellow and tutor of Jesus College, Oxford, has been appointed to the chair of moral philosophy vacant by the death of Prof. David Morrison. From 1924 until 1931 he was secretary to Lord Leverhulme, but was appointed in 1931 to a lectureship in philosophy at Jesus College, Oxford. He was junior dean and librarian of his College, a member of the Sub-Faculty of Philosophy, and a member of the Oxford University Appointments Committee.