

THE SAVERNAKE FOREST FORAY.

5th to 10th Oct., 1903.

The seventh annual week's Fungus Foray was held in Savernake Forest and the Ailesbury Arms Hotel, Marlborough was constituted the headquarters for the meeting. Here the members assembled on Monday the 5th of October, and in the evening in a spacious room that had been secured in the Hotel for the exclusive use of the members, some interesting specimens were already set out on exhibition on the plates. The President the Rev. W. L. W. Eyre, brought from Swarraton, some nice examples of *Lepiota lenticularis* (Lasch) which Fries erroneously places in the Amanitae and *Lycoperdon velatum* Vitt.,* sent a few days earlier to the Secretary. Mr. W. B. Allen exhibited from the neighbourhood of Broseley, *Lepiota carcharias* Pers., *L. acutesquamosa* Weinm., *Inocybe obscura* Pers., *Boletus variegatus* Swartz. *B. versipellis* Fr., and *Geaster rufescens* Pers., and from Wyre Forest *Trametes Bulliardi* Fr. and *Tremellodon gelatinosum* Scop., and Mrs. Carleton Rea placed on the plates from the vicinity of Perth, *Armillaria bulbiger* A. & S., *Pholiota aurea* Mattusch., *Inocybe lateritia* Weinm., *Trametes mollis* (Sommerf.), *Sparassis crispa* Fr., *Clavaria Ardenia* Sow., *Cordyceps ophioglossoides* Fr., parasitic on *Elaphomyces variegatus* Vitt. and a mycetozoon that Mr. Arthur Lister next day identified as *Lepidoderma tigrinum* Rost.

On Tuesday, the 6th of October, a start was made from the Headquarters at 10 a.m. punctually, the members walking via the old Roman station of Cunetio into Savernake Forest, where they searched the portion that lies adjacent to the road that leads to the village of Savernake. Here they were rewarded with several interesting finds including *Pilacre faginea* B. & Br., *Hygrophorus metapodius* Fr., *H. fusco-albus* Fr., *Pholiota adiposa* Fr., *Cortinarius (Phlegmacium) emollitus* Fr., and *crystallinus* Fr., *Clavaria Krombolzii* Fr., *C. Kunzei* Fr., *C. luteoalba* Rea,† and a large patch some 18 inches or more across of the mycetozoon *Stemonitis fusca* Roth., var. *confluens* Lister. At the evening meeting, the Hon. Secretary had much pleasure in informing the members that he had now closed the list of foundation members, and that about seventy members still remained on the active list. Since his last report seventeen new members had joined the

* For description see Trans. Brit. Myc. Socy. vol. ii., p. 39, and Pl. 3 hereof.

† See p. 66, and Pl. 3.

Society, namely,— W. B. Allen, Benthall, Broseley ; F. J. F. Barrington, Chapel Street, Kings Lynn ; J. B. Carruthers, B. A. Government Mycologist and Assistant Director, Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya, Ceylon ; James Renny, Chepstow House, Southfields, London, S.W. ; D. P. Goodwin, Oakden, Kidderminster ; F. J. Rayner, Ivy Bank, Highfield, Southampton ; Arthur D. Cotton, F. L. S., 33 Lowndes Street, London, S.W. ; Alfred Adams M. A., M. B., Bridgend House, West Looe, Cornwall ; Mrs. J. B. Robinson, Saint Mary's Lane, Louth ; Mrs. Eliza A. Amphlett, Dalehurst, Bardwell Road, Oxford ; Miss M. Claridge, 8 Park Terrace, Oxford ; Arthur Lister, F. R. S., and Miss Gulielma Lister, Leytonstone ; Miss May Grafton, Stoke Prior ; James Clarke, Chapel House, Paisley ; Miss Mary Miles, L. L. A., Laurel Bank, Bridgend, Perth ; and Angus Grant, Drumälän, Drumnadrochit. They had to deplore the death of Mr. J. B. Robinson, who had done so much to elucidate the fungi in the neighbourhood of Louth, and he had also to report with regret the resignation of Professor F. W. Oliver, M. A., D. Sc. of University College, London. The Hon. Treasurer reported that the sum of £26 9s. 1d. was at that time standing to their credit at the Post Office, but from that must be deducted the cost of the programme of the present meeting £1, the hire of plates and room for exhibition of the fungi collected, and also the sum of fifteen shillings which had been received for subscriptions for the season 1904. The President then strongly pointed out the necessity of still contributing to the printing fund, and most kindly undertook, as his contribution thereto, to pay for one coloured plate* in the present number of the Transactions. The election of officers for the ensuing year was then proceeded with, Mr. Worthington G. Smith, F. L. S. was unanimously elected President ; Professor H. Marshall Ward, D. Sc., F. R. S., &c., Vice-President ; and Mr. Carleton Rea, B. C. L., M.A., Hon. Secretary and Treasurer. An invitation from the Committee of "The Haslemere Microscope and Natural History Society," to hold our annual foray for the season 1905, at Haslemere and Hindhead, was unanimously accepted. The members then considered several suggestions for the place of meeting next year, and as there was a general feeling that the convenience of our Northern members should be considered, it was unanimously resolved to fix upon Whitby as the centre, and to work the Mulgrave and Arncliffe woods from the 12th to the 19th of September 1904.

On Wednesday the 7th of October, the members were busy during the forenoon in determining the species collected on the previous day, and in placing the same on exhibition. A start was made about mid-day, the members proceeding along the Hungerford Road, and working that side of the Forest and on to a fir-plantation, where

* See Pl. v. and for description of *Schulzeria Grangei* Eyre, Trans. Brit. Myc. Socy. vol. ii. p. 37.

failing light compelled the members to desist from further search. The most interesting specimens collected included, *Lycoperdon velatum* Vitt., *Boletus pruinatus* Fr., *Lepiota seminuda* Lasch., *Mycena zephira* Fr., *Cortinarius (Pblegmacium) triumphans* Fr., *Ecclia carneogrisea* B. and Br., *Hygrophorus subradiatus* Fr. var. *lacmus* Fr., *Clavaria fumosa* Pers., *Tremellodon gelatinosum* Pers., and a mild tasting specimen of *Lactarius capsicum* Schulz. In the evening at the headquarters, Miss A. Lorrain Smith read an interesting note, on "*Gloeosporium Tiliae* a Disease of Lime Leaves" (see p. 55), and Mr. Carleton Rea, B.C.L., M. A., gave a paper entitled, "Notes on two Phalloideae new to Europe" (see p. 57).

On Thursday the 8th of October the members devoted the morning to investigating the previous days material, and then booked by the 1-30 train to Savernake Station. A few minutes walk soon brought them into the forest, and a traverse was then made via the Ailesbury Column and the Grand Avenue of beeches back to Marlborough. Great numbers of *Geoglossa* were noted as on the previous day, and a fair number of *Geaster fimbriatus* Fr. were collected, whilst the beeches throughout the forest were covered with large numbers of the destructive parasites, *Armillaria mucida* Schrad., *Pholiota adiposa* Fr. and *Pholiota squarrosa* Müll. The other specimens worthy of notice, included *Collybia hariolorum* D. C., *Collybia vertirugis* Cke., *Mycena elegans* Pers. and *Hydnum nodulosum* Fr. In the evening the Society's dinner was held at the Headquarters, and afterwards the President the Rev. W. L. W. Erye, delivered his address, entitled "Mycology as an instrument of recreation" (see p. 49). A hearty vote of thanks was then unanimously accorded to the Marquess of Ailesbury for his kind permission to visit Savernake Forest, and the Hon. Secretary was further directed to send to him a copy of their next Transactions, recording the result of the week's investigation.

On Friday the 9th of October the members drove from the Headquarters at mid-day, to the fir-plantation which had been only partially investigated on the Wednesday afternoon. Here Miss Gulielma Lister secured the somewhat rare mycetozoon *Licea flexuosa* Pers., and in the adjacent Forest, specimens of *Mycena rorida* Fr., *Ecclia griseorubella* Lasch., *Inocybe brunnea* Qué!, *Naucoria scolecina* Fr. and *Merulius molluscus* Fr. were found. The return walk was then made to Marlborough by the principal entrance, some of the members taking advantage of Mr. J. W. Brooke's kind invitation to visit his very interesting private museum of Local antiquities on the way. Most of the members left Marlborough early on Saturday, the 10th of October, but one member added *Hygrophorus calyptraeformis* B. and Br. to the list before his departure. Over 450 species were collected during the foray, and Miss A. Lorrain Smith added a new North American mould *Helicomycetes scandens* Morg. to the British Fungus Flora.