

BOTANICAL RAMBLES.

THE first Field meeting for the season took the form of a botanical ramble in part of the Meon Valley on Wednesday, May 26th, 1937. The Rev. H. Purefoy FitzGerald, F.L.S., was Director for the day. A goodly number met at Exton Church and proceeded to Beacon Hill. On the roadside up the hill and in the pastures near by, many were delighted at the large numbers of the Green Man Orchis. An hour was spent in exploring the immediate neighbourhood, and then the party went on to Old Winchester Hill and had picnic lunches in their cars.

The weather had been glorious for the morning trip, but in the afternoon it suddenly changed, and although there was not much rain, the wind was very cold. Everyone was delighted with the wonderful views from the old British encampment, but the flower hunting was very disappointing, as there was scarcely anything of interest to be found. Twenty of the party then met for tea at the George Inn, Warnford, where the Director compiled a list of all flowers that were worth while mentioning.

Amongst the finds were :—

The Green Man Orchis (*Aceras Anthrophora*), Fly Orchis (*Ophrys muscifera*), Green-winged Orchis (*Orchis Morio*), Early Purple Orchis (*Orchis Masculula*), Pyramidal Orchis (*Orchis pyramidalis*), Butterfly Orchis (*Habenaria Chlorantha*), Bird's Nest Orchis (*Neottia Nidus-Avis*), Large Helleborine (*Cephalanthera grandiflora*), Narrowleaved Helleborine (*Cephalanthera ensifolia*), Fragrant Orchis (*Gymnadenia Conopsea*), Tway Blade (*Listera ovata*), Perfoliate Yellow Wort (*Chlora perfoliata*) (not quite in bloom).

On Wednesday, June 9th, 1937, a party of over twenty met at Fleet on an exploratory expedition. The morning was spent between Norris Bridge and Fleet Pond, working along the canal bank and in the country between the two places. Everyone met for a picnic lunch near the Foresters' Inn, and then went by cars to Eelmoor Bridge, where several interesting finds were recorded. The last piece of hunting-ground was then reached by car, and this was the Government reservoirs and waterworks at Boarley.

Several plants which it was hoped to find were not discovered, and it seemed as if the date fixed was about a fortnight too early. Everyone seemed to enjoy the wild country, and the weather was most kind up to nearly the end of the day when rain came on, and those who had not already left in their cars met for tea in Aldershot.

As the locality was in the extreme north of the County, the distance was too great for many of those who generally attend these meetings, but most of the keen botanists turned up.

The following is a list of the most interesting plants found during the day :—

Ranunculus Flammula (Lesser Spearwort), *Radicula amphibia* (Water Rocket), *Claytonia perfoliata*, *Ornithopus perpusillas* (Bird's Foot), *Hippuris vulgaris* (Mare's Tail), *Conium maculatum* (Hemlock), *Apium inundatum* (Least Creeping Marsh Wort), *Cnicus britannicus* (Meadow Thistle), *Wahlenbergia hederacea* (Ivy-leaved Bell Flower), *Pedicularis palustris* (Marsh Louse wort), *Pedicularis sylvatica* (Heath Louse wort), *Veronica scutellata* (Marsh Speedwell), *Pinguicula vulgaris* (Common Butter wort), *Pinguicula lusitanica* (Pale Butterwort), *Salix repens* (Creeping Willow), *Orchis latifolia* (Marsh Orchis), *Echinodorus ranunculoides* (Water Plantain), *Drosera rotundifolia* (Round-leaved Sundew), *Drosera anglica* (Long-leaved Sundew), *Myriophyllum spicatum* (Water Milfoil).

Our thanks are due to Mrs. Gibson for assisting in the planning of the excursion.
