

President's resumé of the year's work, 4.xii.1936

"It was on the 13th December last year that a meeting was held at the Central Café, at which it was decided to found a Natural History Society for Bishop's Stortford and District. The founders numbered 34.

"At the end of April 1936 our membership had risen to 57, and it has remained at that figure ever since. I do not believe that this figure represents the total number of persons interested in natural history in our town and district, and I hope that during the coming year we shall each of us do our best to secure one additional member. A larger membership will greatly improve our scope of work as a society and our usefulness to one another.

"During the ^{first} year of our society's existence there have been nine lectures, ten Field Meetings, one Exhibition Meeting, and three meetings at Miss Barrett's house. The average attendance at the lectures has been 30, ~~of whom~~ ^{and} the average number of visitors was 5. Fifty-six, consisting of 40 members and sixteen guests, attended the Exhibition Meeting.

"The Field Meetings were not so well attended, the average on Saturdays being 13 and on Wednesdays 4. But many of us find it difficult, and some impossible, to leave the town on Saturdays or Wednesdays, and ~~the~~ these attendances at the Field Meetings compare very favourably with those of other societies with a much larger membership.

With regard to the work done by the Society, we have compiled lists of the local flora and lepidoptera, and these will be printed, for distribution to members, as soon as our funds permit. A list of birds is also in process of formation, and we hope that this will be completed during the coming season. A great deal of work in this ~~and~~ direction lies before us, and there is need of members who will take up the study of the many other forms of life occurring in our district. The need of forming a library is ever present in the minds of your Committee, as well as the collecting of preserved specimens of flora, insects, and so on, available for reference by members.

"I believe that no voice will be raised in dissent when I say that

"Before I pass on to the agenda for this evening I want to thank you all most sincerely for the truly splendid way in which you have, each one individually, aided and abetted the formation and steady progress of a Society which, I firmly believe, will add not a little interest to our lives.

"To Mr Craufurd my especial thanks are due. Without him, I am sure the Society would never have attained such a measure of success in so short a time. He is quite the perfect Secretary, and I hope that he will continue to look after us for many years to come.

"To our Vice-President, our Treasurer, and our Committee I also tender my most grateful thanks. Their wise counsel has contributed to our success far more than anything that I could ever have done."