REPORT OF SUBJECT SECRETARIES COMMITTEE.

S. ANDREWS, Correspondent.

Historical Literature.—S. ANDREWS.

Besides the valuable matter in our "Proceedings," which promises continual augmentation under our able Editor, I have to report that Bishop Pontissara's Register is progressing, its editing much delayed by the complications of the war troubles, but the Canterbury and York Society is pressing it forward. Also Bishop Woodlock's Register has been in hand for the provision of an Index providing for modern requirements. It is hoped that it may be completed in a few months. Clerical Lists, Pre-Reformation, for every available Hampshire parish are now in hand and will shortly be placed in the Cathedral Library with the Albums of Post-Reformation Lists already there.

In this year's report I would again draw attention to this special matter of Secretaryships for Subjects. If properly developed this would be a strength to the Society just now, by helping with special subject meetings in smaller centres when the larger activities are hampered, and thus to keep up and utilize the varied Club interests. The usefulness of this side of the work is little recognised by the members, largely owing to the absence of any one locally to push and organise it. Its growth is hindered by the difficulties of War time and so must await younger energies and greater facilities.

New Forest Fungi, 1916.—J. F. RAYNER, F.R.H.S.

The six days' foray—September 25-30—of the British Mycological Society was by far the most important event in the twelve month's mycological history. The results were exceptionally good, fully 500 species being collected, including over 100 of the larger fungi, besides a very considerable number of microscopics. These it is hoped to include in a "Supplement" now in

preparation) of the writer's "Guide to the Fungi of the New Forest" published in 1912. Day or half-day forays were also held, as usual, by the Southampton Rambling Club, the Bournemouth Natural Science Society, and the Southampton Literary and Philosophical Society, and as a result of these meetings and of individual work, the following additions were made to the Forest list:—Amanita strobiliformis Vitt., Tricholoma lixivium Fr., Hygrophorus Clarkii B. and Br., Lenzites sæpiaria Fr., Entoloma Ardosiacum Fr., Hebeloma ischnostylum Cke., Flammula hydrida Fr., Crepidotus mollis Fr., Cortinarius (Tela.) bivelus Fr., C. (Hydro.) dilutus Fr., C. (Hydro.) privignus Fr., Hypholoma elæodes Fr., Coprinus extinctorius Fr., Boletus rubinus W.G.S., Polyporus varius Fr., Cordyceps ophioglossoides Ehr., Elaphomyces muricatus Fr., Lachnea stercorea Gill., Ciliaria trechispora Bond., Pilobolus crystallinus Tode, Ceuthospora phacidioides Grev., Isaria arachnophila Ditm.

Isle of Wight Geology.—G. W. COLENUTT, F.G.S.

Last year reference was made to the greatly increased rate of erosion by the sea at Whitecliff Bay. This has been continued and the whole section of Eocene and Oligocene beds in the cliffs is becoming each year more available for easy investigation. In particular the Barton Beds—for so many years hidden under an accumulation of slipped soil and rainwash covered by furze and bramble bushes, etc.—are now becoming exposed and can readily be examined in detail. Evidences are not wanting that important founderings of some parts of the cliffs will take place in the near future.

On the morning of Sunday, 5th Nov., 1916, one of the heaviest storms within living memory raged over the Isle of Wight, and great damage was done at many places along the coast. Owing to the wind having been blowing heavily from the S.W. for several preceding days, the storm brought with it an abnormally high tide, and careful observers estimated that the tide on the morning of the 5th November was nearly six feet higher than it should have been. It is a fortunate circumstance that the storm

occurred at a period of "neaps," for had it reached us at a time of spring tides it is difficult to realise the extent of the serious damage and floodings which must have ensued. Most notable events happened at Freshwater Gate, where the remaining parts of the esplanade were wrecked and quantities of shingle were hurled into the valley of the Yar, which was flooded by the huge waves breaking over the unstable barrier across the Bay. It is well to again express the view that there is every probability of the sea making a complete breach (possibly at no distant date) through this shingle barrier, particularly if the construction of an efficient system of coast defences is not undertaken without delay. Another such storm, occurring at a period of spring tides, will assuredly lead to the shingle barrier being broken up and driven inland into the marsh, and the whole valley of the Yar flooded by the sea from the English Channel. Then perhaps the seriousness of the whole position will be realised after the maximum amount of damage has been done.

Architecture.—N. C. H. Nisbett, F.R.I.B.A.

Hayling Island.

The Church of North Hayling has for many years shewn serious signs of settlement at its Eastern end, and mediæval buttresses between the lancet windows had been strengthened by large "raking" buttresses, and a new one added. The East wall and the eastern parts of the North and South walls of the Chancel have recently been underpinned as well as the buttresses already mentioned. In the course of the work it was discovered that the masonry of the internal angles had been worked to suit an eastern wall that was already out of the upright when these were built. Possibly the stones so worked were inserted after the first serious settlement took place. The date of the original building is probably early 13th century, and it seems possible that the settlement had taken place before the end of the century, and so the repair would probably not be later than the early part of the following one. While carrying out the work the internal and external modern plaster which covered all the stone dressings

of the windows was removed. The inside has been replastered to shew the old arches and quoins, and the outside rough flint work repaired and finished to match the old work. The roof of the Chancel had formerly an oak tie beam which was found cut off, while a plaster ceiling had been formed. The oak tie has been re-instated and the roof repaired and strengthened, while the position of the plaster ceiling has been re-arranged to suit the old work. The Chancel has been re-paved and new Communion rails fixed. The old rails formerly used for the purpose were probably early Georgian and are now used to enclose the Chancel. Two of the old oak benches have been utilised as seats in the Chancel.

Botany, 1916.—The Rev. Canon John Vaughan, M.A.

The conditions of life and feeling have not been favourable for excursions. Little has been done in the way of Field-Botany during the last season. An interesting record, however, is a new locality near Winchester for *Pyrola Minor, L.*; while the Musk Orchis (*Herminium Monorchis, Br.*) appeared in remarkable abundance in its old locality. Against this we have to place the unfortunate disappearance of *Aceras anthropophora, Br.*, owing to the encroachment of a military camp.

Dr. Dukinfield H. Scott, F.R.S., reports that his daughter (Miss Violet G. Scott) found *Asplenium Trichomanes, L.*, near Oakley. *Orobanche elatior, L.* (on *Centaurea Scabiosa*) grows in an old chalk pit near Oakley. Dr. Scott also reports that he found near Hannington *Euphorbia Cyparissias, L.*

The Editor wishes to thank Dr. Scott for drawing attention to the following, though not mentioned in a previous number of the "Proceedings": "My daughter, Miss C. R. Scott, first found in July, 1912—one and a quarter miles north of Micheldever Station—*Teucrium Botrys, L.* This is the first record for Hampshire; the plant has been observed most years since. Miss M. A. Scott found (July, 1914) *Dianthus deltoides, L.*, at Pardown, near Oakley."

Mr. Horace W. Monckton, F.L.S., F.G.S., informed our Editor

that at Eversley he found *Viola Lloydii*, this locality is not given in Townsend's "Flora of Hampshire."

Natural History.—The Rev. J. E. Kelsall, M.A.

Nature Calendar kept at Milton during 1916.

March 31st, Chiffchaff.

April 1st, Wryneck; 4th, Swallow; 5th, Golden Saxifrage; 9th, Willow Wren; 15th, Tree Pipit; 18th, Germander Speedwell; 21st, Cuckoo; 22nd, Swift; 25th, House Martin; 27th, Holly Blue Butterfly; 29th, Whitethroat; 30th, Nightjar and Green-winged Orchis.

May 1st, Red-backed Shrike; 3rd, Turtle Dove; 5th, Grasshopper Warbler and Orange-tip Butterfly; 9th, Earth-nut; 10th, Bitter Vetch; 17th, Buck-bean; 18th, Spotted Orchis; 19th, Broad-leaved Garlic; 21st, Thrift; 25th, Cow-wheat; 28th, Tway-blade, Dog Rose, Meadow Thistle and Bitter-sweet.

June 1st, Butterfly Orchis; 3rd, Rock Rose; 14th, Puss Moth; 19th, Self-heal and Lucerne; 20th, Dyer's Greenweed; 21st, Toadflax, Corn Gromwell, Harebell, Cream-spot Tiger Moth; 22nd, Stink-horn Fungus; 24th, Privet Hawk Moth; 25th, Corn Cockle; 26th, Wild Thyme; 27th, Viper's Bugloss; 28th, Slender Thistle and Rest-harrow.

July 4th, Wild Gladiolus in the New Forest; 10th, White Admiral Butterfly and Pale Butterwort; 11th, Goat Moth; 12th, Vervain and Tutsan; 15th, Yellow Bedstraw and Corn Marigold; 17th, Henbane; 19th, Succory; 20th, Calamint and Enchanter's Nightshade; 21st, Betony and Purple Loosestrife; 25th, Sneezewort; 29th, Gipsywort; 31st, Fleabane, Dodder and Saw-wort.

August 2nd, Basil and Hemp Agrimony; 8th, Yellow-wort; 10th, Devil's-bit Scabious; 14th, Golden-rod; 15th, Tansy; 29th, Lady's-tresses and Death's-head Caterpillar.

September 23rd, Swift last seen.

October 4th, Common Gorse in bloom; 14th, Ring Ousel.

November 8th, Swallow still here; 20th, Redwing; 25th, Fieldfare.

December 25th, Golden Plover.

NOTES.

Under this heading the Editor will be pleased to insert notes and short articles relative to discoveries and other matters of interest to the history, archæology, botany, folklore, etc. of the County. The Editor appeals for the assistance of the "Local Secretaries" to enable him to develop this section of the Proceedings.

I.—WILD FLOWERS OF MILLBROOK STATION.

The following is a lecture given in 1915 at a monthly meeting of the Southampton Natural History Society by its President, Mr. J. F. Rayner, F.R.H.S.

The Lecturer said that in searching for specimens for the Wild Flower Exhibition at the Free Library, he was attracted to a strip of ground adjacent to, or part of, the goods yards of Millbrook Station, by the blaze of colour there, and paid the ground a series of visits, with results, he thought, worth recording. Growing on this strip of ground, roughly estimated at 3½ acres, he found no fewer than 193 species of plants, while a census of the most prolific of other spots in the district, each of the same area, meadow, old brickfield, woodland, etc., showed no higher number than 65, and fell as low as 22. But mere number was not all; in the other places referred to only quite common kinds grew (with one exception, the discovery of the Bithynian Vetch in a rough field at Bassett—first record for Hants mainland), whereas at Millbrook there were found eleven or twelve species, which, so far as he had been able to ascertain, had not been recorded for the County before, besides others very rarely seen.

Many of these rarities were what is termed "aliens" or "casuals," that is plants not truly native to Britain, but foreigners appearing here in a casual way, having been introduced by man

unwittingly in imported grain, fodder, packing materials, and the like. Sometimes these plants succeeded in establishing themselves in this country, like the Large Field Speedwell and the Canadian Water-weed, sometimes they did not. The alien plants referred to were the Crown Vetch (Coronilla varia), Whorled Sage (Salvia verticillata), Long-flowered Evening Primrose (Œnothera longiflora), Violet Bugloss (Echium plantagineum), Virginian Cress (Lepidium virginicum), Hoary Alyssum (Farsetia incana), and the Norwegian Cinquefoil (Potentilla norvegica).

There were also rare plants of genuine British nationality at Millbrook, such as the London Rocket (Sisymbrium Irio), which is said to have first appeared after the great fire of London in 1666. It has since been found sparingly in other parts of the country, but this is its first recorded appearance in Hants. A kindred plant, the Treacle mustard (Erysimum cheiranthoides), was not so rare, but was anything but common. There was also the Sickle Medick (Medicago falcata), a rare ally of the well-known Lucern, but with yellow flowers.

One very extraordinary plant, of which two or three examples occurred at Millbrook, was an abnormal form of the Wild Mignonette (which also grew here), with stalked seed-vessels, each bearing a small flower. This had been submitted to the authorities of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and they reported it "an example of the phenomenon known as intracarpellary median floral prolification of the flower." He should watch the progress of this plant—if it had any—in future seasons with much interest. Another curious plant, growing in some quantity and with great vigour at Millbrook, was a variety of the Creeping Plume-thistle, with flat spineless leaves, known to science as Cirsium arvense var. setosum.

There were also at Millbrook plants of another status—those known as "escapes," plants commonly cultivated in gardens found growing wild, the seeds having been carried by the wind or animals, or the roots transported among refuse. He had noted the Gauze-flower, Everlasting Pea, Japan Sunflower, Giant Knotgrass, Montbretia, and several others. There were also a number

of trees coming up, native, as well as exotic, including the elegant Lucombe oak.

As regards the distribution of the commoner wild flowers here, perhaps the dominant species was the gay yellow Toadflax, but its dingy little relation, the Lesser Toadflax, also appeared in large sheets. The Willowherbs, though mostly shade or moisture plants, were here in force, including abundance of the brilliant Rose-bay. The Coltsfoot and the Creeping Cinquefoil were very abundant. The Water Figwort was here, but not the Knotted Figwort, which one would have supposed more at home. The Melilot was conspicuous. He gathered the Chicory, Whitlow Pepperwort, Narrow-leaved Pepperwort, Fennel, Asparagus, Basil-Thyme, Swamp Bedstraw, etc. There were 17 species of grasses, including the rare alien Bromus unioloides, its first appearance in the County, but not a single Sedge.

Mr. Rayner commented on the presence or absence of other everyday plants, and said that the point of these remarks would be more apparent when he came to the question of the soil. It seemed that the yard, or the newer part of it with which we were concerned, had been reclaimed from the muddy salt flats of this district, the material used being chiefly ashes and other refuse from the Docks, discharged from ships, and to a less extent gravel ballast from up and down the line. It would now be readily understood how foreign plants came to be introduced. Coal-ashes contained abundance of plant food, and carted soil was well known to promote vigorous growth. The yard was finished some seven or eight years ago; and while it was to be regretted that the attention of botanists had not been drawn to it earlier, its future progress would be carefully noted.

The lecture was illustrated by a complete annotated catalogue of the Millbrook plants, and by dried specimens of the more uncommon species.

II.—SPHAGNUM MOSSES.

By E. E. Cope.

The study of Mosses is one which few botanists take up, and when I opened my Moss Depôt for Hants and Berks, I applied for help in naming the various specimens to be found in the moss sent to me from various places. First consulting the Victorian History of Hampshire (the Berkshire series is not yet published), it gave no mention at all of Sphagnum.

Dr. Dukinfield H. Scott, F.R.S., kindly gave me the names of the following authorities on the subject:—"The Student's Handbook on British Mosses by H. N. Dixon and H. G. Jameson (18/6), gives twelve species of British Sphagnum, about half of which are common; but, he says, for some purposes an older book, Berkeley's Handbook of British Mosses, published by Lovell, Reeve & Co., 1863, is better, as it gives coloured plates of the commoner kinds. Of course bigger books are cited in Dixon and Jameson. The species of Sphagnum are rather difficult." Mr. Horace Monckton, F.L.S., kindly named species for me. He says there are twenty species known. Referring to "Popular History of British Mosses," by Robert M. Stark, 1854, under Sphagnum, I find that the name originated with Pliny, the Roman naturalist, who applied it to certain arborescent lichens and mosses. Dillenius first applied it to this very natural family. German writers subdivided and made out nine to fourteen varieties. Hooker and Taylor restricted it to four British species. Synopsis Muscorum, by C. Müller, and in the Muscologia Britannica there are three species described.

Undoubtedly among the Sphagnum sent to me there are nine or ten varieties. The different sorts grow intermixed in the marshy ground, in fact, Sphagnum seems to require the support of other plants or roots, and it is probable that the presence of heather roots aids its growth. Most authorities state that the rose-coloured Sphagnum is touched by frost and not produced naturally.

When I started the Depôt I was told Sphagnum only grew in Scotland or Ireland, at least, the only valuable moss was to be found there! That the Red Sphagnum contained iodine was another popular fallacy. Here, the rust colour is caused by the iron in the water and soil. Another objector thought, that as Sphagnum grew in the earth it must carry tetanus germs. It is curious, when a new idea is started how many theories are started too, but, in spite of all, I have in two months very nearly organised a supply of 600 dressings per week; as much, or more, than many war work-rooms send out in a year.

In Scotland the moss areas have been scientifically surveyed and a Report published. I have written to the County Councils to urge the same being done in England, as the moss is valuable and if ruthlessly pulled up whole areas will be denuded. It would be a wise policy to declare moss gathering to be war work, and only allow it to be gathered by written permits; this could easily be done under War Emergency legislation.

Cases are known to me, of moss gathered and sent to wholesale firms for sale; and it is rumoured that Germans in England have collected it to send abroad. The financial position of our hospitals is precarious, they have not been carried on with sound commercial policy; nearly all are in debt and all will have now to exercise the greatest economy, whether they continue as voluntary institutions or are State supported, like the Colonial hospitals. Sphagnum Moss dressings are a real economy, and equally if not more efficient than cotton wool.

Herb growing associations also should be attached to the hospitals, which should number a qualified chemist on the staff to prepare drugs from herbs; hitherto all drugs have been bought from certain wholesale firms, although they grow in the country and could easily be collected.

III.—ENGLISH PRODUCTS.

By E. E. Cope.

Before the days of cheap travelling, that is to say before railways and steamships, we English were dependent on home grown products. War and rumours of war, as we now understand by experience, interrupt transport and prevent manufactures. Every child in those days learnt what things were made of, how made, and whence they came from.

There seems now a widespread belief that English people were able to gather wild plants and herbs to use in cookery and medicine. This I think is a mistake; it may have been so at a very early period of English history, but even as far back as the time of the Romans the houses had gardens attached to them, and even now in present day gardens, herbs are still grown, though the use of them is forgotten. Later the monks grew herbs and compounded medicines, but it is possible they imported foreign roots and dried plants to mix with the English grown ones.

It always was a puzzle to me whence the ancients obtained sweetness before the importation of cane sugar, for the beetroot is not a native plant and the sugar-beet is scarcely yet known; but when I found in old recipe books directions for piercing the birch trees in spring and preparing sugar from the sap, it was clear where Northern nations obtained sugar, for only the Italian bees make honey—our wild English bees do not. Pears were grown by the Romans, by whom they are said to have been introduced, and the juice was a sweet substance.

When Italian bees were first brought to England I do not know. Possibly originally by the Romans and afterwards kept by the monks. Metheglin, a Welsh preparation from honey, is not a modern invention. I cannot discover when jam and jelly preserves were first made, nor do I know any way of keeping fruit except with sugar; some form of boiling and covering with hot fat may have preserved the fruit. Both raspberries and blackberries are native plants; also elderberry, hips and haws, rowans and the crab-apple, but the latter is of rare occurrence.

Oil was obtained from nuts, beech-mast, plum-stones; and certain firs produced resin. Acorns were roasted and used as coffee just as the Germans still use them. A cereal food was prepared from the wild arum root and called Portland sago.

For vegetables, young hop shoots, young spring nettles and dandelion leaves are all I can remember, but asparagus and sea-kale are both cultivated forms of wild plants. I cannot find that any other roots were used as food, and we know the potato only dates from the 16th century. Tea was made of balsam leaves, rosemary, sage, mint and other herbs, rose leaves and hawthorn.

Medicinal plants were marsh-mallow, hemlock, marigold, saffron (much used in cookery) liquorice, dandelion, turpentine, wormwood, colchicum, alkanet, savin and lily leaves, angelica, mustard, rhubarb, tansy, spearmint, poppy, sloes, violets, red roses, mezereum, wall pellitory, watercress, tormentil, oak leaves and bark, and garlic. All these and many more were in use till the 19th century.

Sweetmeats: Angelica, eryngo, cucumber, marrow, lettuce stalks, liquorice, barberries, berberis berries, Spanish chestnuts; but I cannot find that horse chestnuts were ever made use of, nor any wild seeds such as oat-grass or vetches.

Some seeds are deadly poisonous, like the solanum, laburnum, arum, lilac, etc.

Only the houses of the well-to-do had gardens attached, the poor in Scotland to this day have no gardens. Every squire's wife knew how to compound medicines; I have now my great-grandmother's scales, mullers, pestle and mortar, measuring glass, and the old book she used for recipes. It was an important part of a woman's education to understand such matters. Doctors were few and far between, and not scientific in their methods; there were no chemists' shops or ready-made medicines to be bought. Merely to grow herbs is not of so much value as being able to concoct the medicines; but we must first cultivate the plants then the knowledge of how to use them will as a matter of course follow. Already, old volumes of herbals are in request

and fetch high prices, and the next generation will be housewives in the old-fashioned sense of the word.

Every age has had its fashions in medicines. We have not enough sunshine to produce highly flavoured luscious plants, but more might be done with native plants if the subject was scientifically studied. Lemon, cinnamon, mace, nutmegs and cloves. Perhaps we do possess some shrubs or plants capable of producing some juices of equivalent value; and of plants for dyeing we have a fair range of all the colours, and some of our plants are infested with a coccus which yields a red juice.

The subject of resins is one deserving more study, also the improvement and introduction of a greater variety in vegetables, especially of roots.

IV.—THE ANCIENT YEW TREE IN SOUTH HAYLING CHURCHYARD.

Colonel Sandeman, F.S.A., M.V.O., has kindly sent the following note relating to the Yew Tree in South Hayling Churchyard, together with Mr. Goldring's report upon it:—

The work of restoration of the ancient Yew Tree in South Hayling Churchyard is now being carried out by Messrs. Cheals, of Crawley, it will probably occupy from four to five weeks, and cost about £25. The treatment with strong carbolic acid, recommended by Mr. Goldring, has been thought by Messrs, Cheals and Professor Chittenden as too drastic and likely to injure the tree, and they both suggest that lysol should be substituted for the carbolic. It is a satisfaction to know that this work of restoration, which has so long been delayed, is being at last carried out. This tree is supposed to be one of the oldest in the County, if not in the country.

KEW. *October 7th, 1916.*

Report upon the present condition of the ancient Yew Tree in the Churchyard at Hayling Island, and instructions for the treatment advised for its preservation.

I have recently examined the large Yew Tree with Mr. Nye,

the Churchwarden, to whom I gave verbal instructions as to the treatment that I advise for its preservation. The tree, compared with the recorded sizes of the ancient Yews in Great Britain, proves to be one of, if not the largest in the country, the circumference of the stem at one foot from the ground level being 33ft. 8ins., with a spread of branches about 20 yards in diameter. It is presumably one of the most ancient Yews on record, though there is no means of accurately ascertaining its age.

In its present condition the tree is in vigorous health and growth, as indicated by its foliage growth and the activity of its bark growth; but for many years the stem has been undergoing decay, as indicated by the present state of the hollow parts of the trunk. The cause of this decay is the fungus growth which attacks the dead wood, converting the sound hard wood to a crumbling mass. This fungus growth is clearly shown by the whitish substance on the surface of the wood, which is the mycelium or spawn of the dry rot fungus. This fungus, if not arrested, will in course of time destroy all the sound wood, with the result that the tree will collapse by the sheer weight of its huge limbs and the enormous weight of head growth. This fungus growth must be at once destroyed, and then the tree may be preserved for a further period of centuries.

The following instructions are a repetition of those I verbally gave Mr. Nye on the spot, but in a case so important as this I have considered it necessary to state in writing the details of the treatment, so that in future there may be a record preserved of it, in case the tree at some future time requires similar treatment.

The hollow part has at some time been partially filled with soil and mixed with stones, presumably with the object of arresting the decay, or to give support to the hollow trunk. This is the very worst treatment that could have been done, as the soil favours the growth of the destroying fungus, which spreads rapidly under the conditions of darkness and moisture.

Therefore, first of all, this soil and rubbish should be cleared away to the ground surface. Then all the surface of the hollow part should be thoroughly washed and scrubbed with a hard

brush. Then the surface should be scrubbed with a solution of carbolic acid. This mixture should be one part of carbolic acid (Calvert's No. 5) to ten parts of water. After a few days, when the wood is dry again, all the surface of the dead wood should be painted with crude carbolic acid (Calvert's No. 5) but NOT diluted with water. Every crevice should be dressed with the acid, but care should be taken that the acid is not put on the living bark.

Besides the large hollow space, there are many places on the trunk where the whitish fungus growth is clearly seen. All these places should be treated in the same way. Should any parts be missed, and the fungus growth show, the parts affected should be dealt with in the same way.

There are several decayed stumps of branches on the trunk, and these in time will decay right away and leave a hole in the trunk. These stumps should be cut off hard back to the trunk down to the ring of live bark, which (as I pointed out to Mr. Nye) will close over the cut part in time and preserve the wood. Wherever a stump or dead branch is cut off the cut part should be dressed with crude coal tar, or if there is any fungus indicated should be dressed with carbolic acid. There are several quite dead large branches which should be cut clean away, right back to the main stem, or back to the living branch from which they spring. This—if done carefully—will improve the appearance of the tree, and great care should be taken in the operation that there is no indication of mutilation.

The supports appear to be fairly sound on the outside, though there are indications that two of them are decaying at the base. As it is so important that these props should be kept in sound condition, on account of the enormous weight which they support, they should be renovated by cutting off the base where decayed and under-pinning them with sound concrete or stone, so that the base of the wood props are at least six inches above the ground level. If any of the wood supports are much decayed it will be advisable to replace them with new ones of sound oak of the same size.

The health and vigour of the tree would be greatly improved

if the surface soil about it is renovated, as it appears to be exhausted, especially on the side by the path. This renovation should extend from the trunk to the outer radius of the branches. This is done by clearing away all the present rubbish and digging the surface soil with a garden fork about four or six inches deep. Then put a surface layer of good soil on the top to a depth of about four inches. This soil dressing may be of any rich soil such as is got from the top spit of a meadow or pasture; or the cleanings of a ditch; but not taken from road sides where there is tar dressing, or where there is much motor traffic, as the surface drainings of such roads are poisonous to trees. The path should be re-made on the top of the soil dressing and all the parts around the tree should be turfed with sods from a meadow.

Such an ancient and historic tree as this is worth all possible treatment and care; therefore I suggest there should be a low unclimbable fence placed round the trunk, so as to prevent any access to the hollow part. This fence need only be about three feet high, and placed round in the form of an octagon. This would not only prevent access to the hollow stem, but indicate that all care is being taken to preserve the tree, as is done in the case of other ancient and historic Yews in this country.

[Here follows a plan and specification for the proposed fence round the tree].

W. GOLDRING, Kew.

V.—LIMENTIS SIBYLLA.

It is always unwise to mention localities, so I will merely say we were staying at Lyndhurst, and the date June 21st. The forest was looking its best after heavy thunder rain of the previous day, the foliage was fresh and green, the wild roses were few and far between, the honeysuckle and blackberries only just coming out. Down a beautiful forest glade we found the White Admiral in plenty. Books tell us these graceful butterflies are to be seen on the tops of the trees. Suffice it to say they were lower down, else I should not have been able to so capture specimens. I have since found these butterflies near my home in Berkshire, but everywhere they were feeding on the blackberry flowers.

E. E. COPE.