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1884

❖ THE SOUTH LONDON ❖

ENTOMOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,

60, *Blackman Street, Borough, S.E.*

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The Society has for its object the diffusion of Biological Science, by means of papers and discussions, and the formation of typical collections. There is a Library for the use of Members. Meetings of the Members are held on the 1st and 3rd Thursday evenings in each month, from Eight to Ten p.m., at the above address. The Society's room is easy of access from all parts of London, and the Committee cordially invite the co-operation of all naturalists, especially those who are willing to further the objects of the Society by reading papers and exhibiting their specimens.

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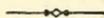
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WALTER A. PEARCE,

Lyndhurst, Croxted Road, West Dulwich.

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THE SOUTH LONDON
Entomological & Natural History Society,

(Established 1872)

60, BLACKMAN STREET, BOROUGH, S.E.

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REPORT, 1884.



THE Council, in laying before the Members their 13th Annual Report on the status of the Society, feel a pardonable gratification in coupling with it the announcement that the year, now at its close, has been one of prosperity and advancement.

The Society has experienced seasons of apparent decline ; but it speaks to the vital activity and energy inherent in the Society itself, that on each occasion the decline has generally been followed by an advance,—on the present occasion by an advance of a more marked character. This fluctuation is not a matter for real discouragement : it will be found to affect all classes of Societies founded for special purposes.

Mention should be made of the fact that the Society, since its last annual meeting, has removed to more convenient and commodious quarters. The new locality is more central ; and it is perhaps an indirect testimony to its greater convenience that, whereas during the first half of the year *three* new Members only were enrolled in the old quarters, *thirteen* have since joined us at our present location. The total number of new Members for the past year is therefore sixteen, making our present membership fifty-six.

The Society has also incorporated into its name the words "Natural History," which a previous resolution (adding all branches of the science to the scope of its investigations) rendered necessary. Thus the field of research has vastly widened, and calls for new, staunch, and resolute workers.

The financial position of the Society has also improved, as will be seen on reference to the Balance Sheet.

The Library still continues to improve; and attention will have to be given to the provision of more accommodation for the increasing number of books. The following donations have been made this year:—

- By T. R. BILLUPS, "Life of a Scotch Naturalist."
 " " "The President's Address to the Entomological Society of London."
 „ G. C. CHAMPION, "Notes on Tropical Collecting."
 „ V. R. PERKINS, "Monograph of the Stylops."
 „ R. SOUTH (Vice-President), "The Entomologist Synonymic List of British Lepidoptera."
 „ R. McLACHLAN, "Synopsis of British Trichoptera."
 „ W. NEWMAN, "Entomologist" for 1884.
 „ " "Zoologist" for 1884.
 „ W. WEST, (President) "British Coleoptera" (*Spry & Shuckard*).

"The Report of the South London Microscopical and Natural History Club," from the Society.

The Society's typical collection of insects is in good preservation, for which we have to thank the Curator, Mr. West, who has given a great deal of time and attention to it.

Donations have been received this year from

MR. ADKIN, 39 species of *Lepidoptera*.

MR. SOUTH, 40 species of *Lepidoptera*.

MR. WEST, *Curator*, 90 species of *Coleoptera*, and a collection of Pupa cases of British *Lepidoptera*.

The Botanical Collection is in an improved condition, most of the specimens having been mounted, and a few additional species having been added by the sub-curator.

Four Excursions were held this year, viz :—

May 24th	...	Loughton.
June 28th	...	Box Hill.
July 26th	...	Sevenoaks.
August 23rd	...	Esher.

Those to Loughton and Boxhill were very successful, some valuable captures being made.

Another interesting feature this year was the opening meeting in this room, it being the occasion of an Exhibition which all who were present will remember with pleasure. We must here thank the Members of the South London Microscopical and Natural History Club, who so kindly exhibited microscopical preparations relating to entomology, and so contributed greatly to the success of the Meeting. A report of the exhibition appeared in the "Entomologist," the "Entomologist's Monthly Magazine," and the "South London Press." We must not forget the "Annual Pocket Box Exhibition of Insects" on Nov. 20th, at which a great number of rare species of *Lepidoptera* and *Coleoptera*, and other orders, were exhibited.

The Communications read before the Society this year were as follows, viz. :—

"Seeds," by Mr. E. STEP.

Notes on "*Drosera rotundifolia*," by Mr. E. STEP.

Notes on the Parasites and Inquilines of the "*Cynips Kollari* Gall," by Mr. BILLUPS.

Notes on "*Blatta germanica* and *B. orientalis*," by Mr. BILLUPS.

The Exhibitions this year have been very numerous, amongst which we may mention in *Lepidoptera* :

Mr. ADKIN, *Macrogaster arundinis*, *Ennomos autumnaria*, *Acronycta alni*, *Petasia nubeculosa*, *Boarmia cinctaria* (bred), *Scoria dealbata*, *Aspilates strigilaria*, var., *Acidalia subsericeata* (bred), and *Eupithecia satyrata*, dark var. Living larvæ of *Endromis versicolor*, *Notodonta chaonia*, and *Acidalia holoscericeata*.

Mr. BLISS, *Ennomos autumnaria*.

Mr. BILLUPS, *Nudaria mundana*, *Emmelesia blandiata*.

Mr. COOPER, *Toxocampa pastinum*, *Chesias obliquaria*, *Polyommatus phlœas* (bred from ova).

Mr. COVERDALE, 37 Species of *Tineæ*.

Mr. COOK, *Deilephila lineata*, *Cymatophora fluctuosa*.

Mr. DOBSON, *Vanessa antiopa*, *Stauropus fagi* (bred).

Mr. ELISHA, *Senta ulvæ*, *Meliana flammea*, *Nonagria brevilinea*, living larvæ of *Coleophora conspicuella*, preserved larvæ of British *Lepidoptera*, and many rare species of *Tortrices* and *Tineæ*.

Mr. ELEY, *Arctia fuliginosa* (bred).

Mr. GASKELL, *Cuculia lychnitis*, *Eurymene dolabraria*.

Mr. HALL, Larvæ and imago of *Eupithicia consignata*.

Mr. JOBSON, *Eupithecia succenturiata*, varieties of *Smerinthus tilie*, *Angerona prunaria*.

Mr. KENWARD, varieties of *Acidalia aversata*, and *Boarmia cinctaria* (bred).

Mr. OLDHAM, *Cidaria sagitata*, *Anarta myrtilli* (bred).

Mr. W. E. PEARCE, *Lithosia helveola*, *Toxocampa pastinum*, and life-histories of British *Lepidoptera*.

Mr. SOUTH, *Toxocampa craccæ*, *Pædisca sordidana*, *P. semifuscana*, and varieties of *Pieris brassicæ*, *Larentia didymata*, *Melanippe fluctuata*, and *M. Montanata* from S. Devon.

Mr. TUGWELL, dark var. of *Vanessa urticæ*, *Laphygma exigua*, *Sesia spheniformis* (bred), *Acronycta alni*, *Boletobia fuliginaria* (bred).

Mr. WEST (President), *Toxocampa pastinum*, *Anticlea sinuata*, *Laphygma exigua*, *Pseudopteryx cytisaria* (bred), *Colias helicæ*, also living and preserved larvæ of British *Lepidoptera*.

Mr. WEST (Greenwich), *Chærocampa celerio*.

Mr. WELLMAN, *Eupithecia helveticata*, *E. venosata* (bred), *Fidonia atomaria*, dark var., *Acronycta strigosa*, *A. alni*, and three broods of *Acidalia incanaria*, and *Timandra amataria*, twelve species of *Pterophori*, and thirty-seven species of *Tortrices*.

Mr. J. T. WILLIAMS, *Boletobia fuliginaria* (bred) and *Acidalia subsericeata*.

Coleoptera :—

Mr. BILLUPS, *Dytiscus lapponicus*, Gyll, *Philonthus thermarum*, Aub., *P. fumigatus*, Er., *P. addendus*, Sharp, *Ocyopus cyaneus*, Pk., *Staphylinus fulvipes*, Scop., *Stilicus fornicatus*, Steph., *Oxypoda exoleta*, Er., *Tachyusa scitula*, Er., *Ceryleon fagi*, Bris., *Cistela ceramboides*, L., *Gymnusa brevicollis*, Pk., and *Trichopterx brevicornis*, Mots., a species new to Britain, also many rare species of *Exotic coleoptera*.

Mr. CHANEY, *Orchestes ilicis*, *O. avellanae*, *Chrysomela didymata*, *Ocyopus ater*, *O. compressus* *Cæloides subrufus*, *Hydroporus dorsalis*.

Mr. CHAMPION, *Vellicus dilatatus*.

Mr. ELEY, *Cerambyx moschatus*.

Mr. W. PEARCE, *Lathrobium rufipenne*, *Errirhinus costirostris*.

Hemiptera :—

Mr. BILLUPS exhibited many rare species belonging to this order, such as *Acalypta parvula*, D.S., *Cymus clavicularis*, Fall., *C. glandicolo*, Halm., *Stygnocerus setulosus*, Schill., *Peritrechus puncticeps*, Thom., *Salda Cocksii*, Curt., *Monanthia costata*, Fab., *Tropistethus holosericus*, Halm., and *Henestaris laticeps*, Curt.

Many rare specimens of *Ichneumonida*, bred as well as captured, were shown by Mr. Billups; while among the *Heterogyna* and *Fossorial Hymenoptera*, also the *Diploptera* and *Anthophila*, we may call attention to the following, viz. :

Lasius umbratus, Nye, *Stenammas Westwoodii*, Westw., *Myrmecina Latreilli*, Curt., *Methoca ichneumonides*, Lat., *Myrmosa melanocephala*, Fab., *Priocnemis exaltatus*, Fab., *P. affinis*, V. de Lind., *P. obtusiventris*, Schiodt, *Pompilus chalybeatus*, Schiodt., *P. pectinipes*, V. de Lind., *Crabro peltarius*, Schr., *C. scutellatus*, Schr., *C. capitatus*, Shuc., *Psen ater*, Fab., *Odynerus reniformis*, Gmel. (a species new to Britain), *Halictus longulus*, Smith, *Andrena Hattofiano*, Fab., *A. cetii*, Schrank. Mr. BILLUPS also exhibited the curious wasp, *Pelopæus architectus*, St. Farg., and Nest from South America, also specimens of the beautiful ant *Cremastochilus scutellaris*, taken running about the streets of Greenwich.

Mr. GASKELL, *Cerceris arenaria*.

Among the Botanical Exhibitions we may mention :—

Mr. WELLMAN, variety of *Echium vulgare*, and *Geranium pratense* from Folkestone.

Mr. STEP, *Drosera rotundifolia*, specimens and sketches of British fungi.

Mr. PEARCE, *Lastrea filix-mas*, *Lathyrus pratensis*.

It is to be hoped that Exhibitions of Botanical Specimens will be more numerous in the future.

Among miscellaneous Exhibits we must not forget the realistic studies in colour of British and Exotic Plants by Mr. A. E. PEARCE, who also exhibited a fine living specimen of *Natrix torquata* (the common green snake). Skins of *Natrix torquata* and *Pelias berus*, were exhibited by Mr. COOK; and a small collection of cases made by the larvæ of *Limnophilidæ*, were shown by Mr. W. A. PEARCE.

Mr. WEST (President), a piece of pine bored by *Teredo*.

Before closing our Report, we must mention that Mr. MILES, our former Secretary, resigned the Secretaryship, owing to his leaving England for India, and we take this opportunity of expressing our appreciation of the able manner in which he discharged the duties of his office.

WALTER A. PEARCE,

Hon. Sec.

December, 1884.

THE SOUTH LONDON ENTOMOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR 1884.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
To Balance from last Audit, Dec. 20th, 1883	3	2	1	By Rent, (Michaelmas, 1883, to Michaelmas, 1884)	8	0	0
Library Fines (1883 and 1884)	0	11	4	" Purchase of Books...	1	4	1
Entrance Fees	0	13	0	" Postage and Stationery	1	12	5½
Subscriptions	11	12	6	" Printing ...	2	9	6
Arrears Received	1	12	0	" Sundries ...	0	12	0
				" Cash Balance in hand	3	12	10½
	<u>£17</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>		<u>£17</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>
ASSETS.				LIABILITIES INCURRED.			
To Cash Balance in hand	3	12	10½	By Rent, etc....	1	6	0
Estimated realisable Proportion of Arrears	1	2	0	" Balance of Assets over Liabilities	3	8	10½
	<u>£4</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>10½</u>		<u>£4</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>10½</u>
Balance				

Audited, compared with vouchers, and found correct, *Thursday, December 18th, 1884.*

ALFRED GASKELL, }
A. P. ELEY, } *Auditors.*

EDWARD STEP, *Treasurer.*

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.



GENTLEMEN,

The time has now arrived when I must restore to your hands the important trust you confided to me a year ago, and when I am to have the privilege of addressing a few words to you respecting the condition of our Club.

The year we have just passed through has, I am happy to say, been very prosperous, both financially and in the increase of Members, no less than sixteen new names being added to our ranks ; which prosperity is due, I think, to two or three causes. What I consider the principal, is the change of residence. This present room, although less expensive, is far more commodious and convenient to the majority of our Members than the last ; but there is still room for improvement. At the same time, it will not do for us to be continually changing our abode. When our numerical strength increases, and we outgrow our present residence, then will be the time to look out for another. We must bear in mind the old proverb, " A rolling stone gathers no moss," and apply it to our Society, for a moving Society gathers no members.

At the beginning of the year it was thought desirable, by the majority of the Members, to add to the title the words *Natural History*, thus altering the constitution of the Club, by admitting papers upon any Natural History subject. I am sorry to say that very few have availed themselves of the opportunity afforded them. It would have been very gratifying to have had a paper and discussion every meeting. Perhaps, in the ensuing Session, Members will bear this hint in mind, and give us something to think about, as well as to see. There is very little doubt, that many who now seldom

come to the Meetings would do so more frequently if they had something to learn. It is not necessary that the paper should last the whole evening. Individually, I prefer short communications,—they are generally more interesting, and likely to lead to animated discussions. Most of us, in the course of our studies, come across something which is new to us, and probably to others, and it may be new to science. How much wiser to have it recorded and discussed at the time when the observation is fresh in the memory, instead of saying nothing about it except to a chosen few, when after a time it is forgotten, perhaps to be re-discovered by some one else, who receives all the honour.

The Exhibits during the year have been exceedingly numerous and interesting, thus showing that the Members are hard at work adding to their collections. Perhaps the paucity of papers may thus be accounted for.

Our financial condition is, thanks to our energetic Treasurer, in a very fair condition; so also is the Library, and Entomological and Botanical Collections; and the thanks of the Society are due to the gentlemen who have so kindly undertaken the charge of them.

On March 27th, our former worthy secretary, Mr. Miles, had to resign office, his business calling him abroad, and thus placing us in a difficulty. But our friend, Mr. W. A. Pearce, kindly came to the rescue and undertook the arduous work, and right well has he performed the task. I am sure you will all support me in thanking him, not only for his assistance, but also for the valuable and artistic present he made to the Club. I refer to the illuminated code of rules, which is doubly valuable to us, being the work of his own hands.

Having glanced at the social condition of our Club, let us look into its scientific status, and the study of Entomology generally. The unscientific world very much retards the advance of our study, especially with beginners, by holding us up to ridicule. I have myself had to put up with being called “fly-catcher,” “bug-hunter,” and various other epithets, more forcible than polite; and also by being followed (when

out with the net) by little boys, and declared to be "going a-fishing." This kind of treatment to a sensitive beginner is very trying, and apt to make him discard the pursuit for some other; but, if he continues a season or two, the tables are turned; he then begins to think his opponents' education has been sadly neglected, if they don't happen to know what *Papilio Machaon* is.

Another hindrance to the study is the want of time. It is true that to go into the work scientifically will take up most of the time that we have to spare in this busy age; but very much may be done on the Saturday half-holiday, now so general, and nearly all of us have a summer holiday, which is a great boon to the entomologist.

Then, again, it is one of the most healthful pursuits we can engage in, inasmuch as it takes us out into the open air, away from the cares of business and troubles of life, gives an entire change of thought, thus resting the brain, which nowadays gets fatigued with the continual rush in the struggle for existence. It causes us to walk many miles (without our knowledge, as it were), our thoughts being occupied, not upon taking a constitutional walk, but upon what we shall catch; thus we get open-air exercise, without the idea that we are going for it, which is very much more beneficial than if we went out for the purpose of health.

Another advantage to be derived is the cultivation it gives to the eye, in increasing its power of observation. How often does the experienced entomologist detect an insect on a tree trunk or fence, that the uncultivated eye may be looking at, yet fails to observe.

Again, the entomologist must, of necessity, learn a little of the science of botany, to be able to recognise the food plants of the various larvæ; otherwise he may fail to rear some great rarity. And, *not* least of all its advantages, is the good fellowship it brings. I don't know any followers of science who are so generous and kindly disposed towards each other as entomologists. It is true there are sometimes little petty jealousies, it is so amongst all scientists; but I have always

found them (even perfect strangers), ready to help with advice, instruction, and duplicates. Who has not, when out in the fields, or woods, been welcomed by a "brother of the net," and stopped and had a friendly chat, and inspected each others' specimens, and probably made a friendship that may last a life-time.

And now that I have advocated the cause, I should like with your permission to utter a few words of caution and advice. The tendency amongst all beginners is to see how quickly the cabinet can be filled with the different species: they are collected, set, and placed in their allotted spaces, without a second thought as to their life-history and anatomy. I have looked over a great many collections, but the majority have been collections of the perfect insects only. Now, for scientific purposes, this is of little use. Side by side should be placed the egg, larva, pupa, and imago. Then the collection is of real value for instruction and reference. Even the non-scientific person is more attracted to the drawer which contains the life history of a species.

With regard to studying the anatomy, the hindrance to this is, that it requires a microscope, entailing a little expense; but much may be done with the use of a pocket lens, costing a few shillings.

To the possessor of a compound microscope the insect world will afford an unlimited store of objects for his investigation. What can be more beautiful than the minute scales from the wing of a lepidopteron; and even rubbed and discarded specimens, too bad for the cabinet, may be brought into use. The wings, after the scales are rubbed off, are found to be full of minute depressions, in which the stalks of the scales were placed in such a position, that they lapped over each other like the tiles on a house. The shapes of the scales are very variable, according to the part of the wing they are taken from; and as nothing is done in nature without order, it is probable that some day they may assist in a more correct classification.

The spiracles or breathing mouths of insects are exceedingly

interesting objects ; so also is the mouth proper, with its masticating apparatus in the case of the coleoptera and larvæ, but which in the lepidopterous imago is modified into a suctorial organ. The compound eyes are most beautiful and elaborate, consisting of innumerable facets or lenses, radiating from a centre. When a section of the eye is cut, it is seen that these lenses are somewhat cone-shaped, the apex of the cone, which is covered with a black pigment, being, of course, inwards. One little spot in the centre of the apex is left uncovered, through which passes a filament of the optic nerve situated at the back of the eye. Then again there are the antennæ to be worked at ; and a very large field for study they afford, as their use has not been thoroughly and clearly made out. The internal organs of insects will also afford unlimited amusement and instruction ; but to observe them properly it will be necessary to dissect them out carefully. This is generally done in a shallow trough of water ; the parts are teased out with needles, or dissecting knives, the water enabling the parts to separate more easily.

I will not weary you with a lengthy paper on Microscopy, but, before concluding, will just consider what Entomology has done for us. In the first place it has enabled us to distinguish some of our friends from our foes ; and a knowledge of their life history enables us to cope with them. I am afraid our enemies rather outnumber our friends, but it may be that we have not yet learned to make use of them.

The cockroach has for years, and is still by some, considered to be an enemy ; but lately the medical profession has brought his ground-up body into use as a medicine, thus turning him into a friend. Again, he is said to be a very assiduous hunter after the bed-bug, which he devours ravenously. Were it not for the blow-flies, burying-beetles, and others, foul matter would be left to putrefy, and pollute the atmosphere, and engender disease, therefore we may classify them as friends, although they are sometimes a source of annoyance.

What better friends have we in the insect world than the honey bee, the silkworm, and lac-coccus, which produces not

only the gum lac, but a beautiful dye. There is also the cochineal insect and the Spanish fly, or *Cantharides* beetle, so useful to the medical profession.

On the other hand, as I remarked before, we have a great many insect enemies; for instance, the celery and turnip flies, the corn weevils, the phylloxera, or vine pest, and any number of aphides, or plant-lice, as they are designated. Altogether the poor agriculturist has rather a hard time of it in dealing with so many foes. Some farmers (or rather game-keepers) consider the entomologist one of their enemies; whereas they ought, really, to place him amongst their friends, and encourage him to visit their preserves. If we do disturb some of the game occasionally, and break off a few twigs in beating for larvæ, we compensate them for it, in the number of insects we capture, and whose ravages we thus lessen.

I think I have said sufficient to show that the study of Entomology is not such a trivial affair as some would have us believe. I should not have so strongly advocated the cause before you had this been entirely an Entomological Society, concluding, of course, that the members would know all about it; but as there are some amongst us who have not made this branch of science their special study, I hope by these few remarks to induce them to take it up scientifically. This must be my apology for troubling you at such length.

During this year the science has lost, through death, five of its most earnest devotees. The first on the obituary list is Mr. Buckler of Emsworth, Hants. He made the larvæ his special study, and collected notes and figures of about 850 species. The drawings are about to be published by the Ray Society; and as we have lately become subscribers to that Society our library will ere long include a copy of them.

We also have to deplore the death of Sir Sidney Smith Saunders, one of the only two original members of the Entomological Society of London. He was a thorough all-round entomologist, and having travelled a great deal in his official capacity was well conversant with exotic, as well as British Entomology.

We have also lost Mr. Prest, of York, and Mr. Harper, of Kingsland, both ardent workers in the cause, and whose names are familiar to the readers of the *Entomologist*.

Hymenopterists have lost a great friend (on the continent) in Dr. Förster, who, after a life of honour and distinction, died at the age of seventy-four.

In proof that the study of Entomology is a healthy pursuit and conducive to longevity, I may say that two of these gentlemen had reached the ripe age of seventy-four; one, seventy-one; one, seventy; and the other fifty-nine.

I am happy to say we have not this year been visited by death in our own Society; and I trust it may be many, many years before our President has to announce to us a loss to our ranks from this cause.

Gentlemen, I must now, in conclusion, thank you for the great honour you conferred upon me in electing me to the Presidential chair last December; and before vacating it would wish to thank you heartily for overlooking my many shortcomings, and for your kind support. I also wish to congratulate you on your choice of President for the next year. You have elected a gentleman who is well known in the entomological world, not only as a most assiduous collector, but one who has done a great work in his classification of the British Lepidoptera and by other literary productions.

In vacating the chair to Mr. South I feel great pleasure, because I am sure that whatever the Society has suffered in the past year it is sure to more than regain in the future.

LIST OF MEMBERS.



- ADKIN, R., *Vice-President*, Wellfield, Lingard Road, Lewisham, S.E.
BARKER, H. W., 148, Hollydale Road, Peckham, S.E.
BLISS, A., Pennenis, Allenby Road, Forest Hill.
BILLUPS, T. R., M.E.S.L., 20, Swiss Villas, Coplestone Road,
Peckham, S.E.
BOLGER, H. L., 4, Rose Terrace, High Road, Lee, S.E.
CARRINGTON, J. T., M.E.S.L., Savage Club, Savoy, W.C.
CHAMPION, G. C., M.E.S.L., 274, Walworth Road, S.E.
CHANNEY, W. C., *Hon Librarian*, 96, Bird in Bush Road, Peckham, S.E.
CLODE, W., 47, Phillimore Gardens, Campden Hill, W. (*Life Member*).
COLE, W., M.E.S.L., Laurel Cottage, Buckhurst Hill, Essex.
COLLETT, E. P., 76, Islip Street, Kentish Town, N.W.
COOK, A. E., 31, Lower Road, Rotherhithe.
COOPER, J. A., 1, Sussex Villas, Harrow Road, Leytonstone.
COVERDALE, G., 24, Fleming Road, Lorrimore Square, S.E.
DOBSON, H. T., Ivy House, Acacia Grove, New Malden, Surrey.
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ELISHA, G., 122, Shepherdess Walk, City Road.
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