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Belfast Naturalists' Field
Club.

Origin & Progress.

by A.A. Campbell.

1938.

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Belfast
Naturalists' Field Club:
Its Origin and Progress.

By
A. ALBERT CAMPBELL,
President.

[PUBLISHED BY REQUEST.]

Belfast:
HUGH GREER, 18 Gresham Street,
1933.

PRICE - - ONE SHILLING.

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Retire 1927.

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Retire 1928.

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CHARLES E. KERR, B.A.,

F.R.S.A.I.

T. M. DEANS, LL.D.

Retire 1929.

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E. N. CARROTHERS.

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R. J. WELCH, M.SC., M.R.I.A., 49 Lonsdale Street, Belfast.

THE CLUB SECTIONS.

□ □ □

Members desiring to join a Section (other than the Junior) may do so on payment of One Shilling to the Secretary of the Section. During the Summer, each Section will arrange **Special Field Meetings**, due notice of which will be given to the Members concerned.

WINTER MEETINGS.

□ □ □

A Winter Programme will be arranged, and due notice sent to each Member as to the day and hour of Meeting.

Members are invited to offer Papers, and to give the Honorary Secretaries timely notice (say, before end of August) of their willingness to contribute to the programme.

The Annual Meeting for the Election of Officers, &c., will be held in April, 1927.

PRIZE LIST, SENIORS ONLY.

The COMMITTEE offers a Prize of Two Guineas, for competition during the summer of 1926, open to any member of the Club for the best collection of local Natural History Rhymes.

The PRESIDENT offers a Prize of One Guinea for the most complete collection of Irish Wasps.

The VICE-PRESIDENT offers a Prize of One Guinea for the best set of Photographs, illustrating any one branch of Field Club Work, together with short notes relating to same. (Limited to amateur photographers).

Mr. CHAS. E. KERR offers a Prize of One Guinea for the best list of Irish Place-Names not in Joyce's "Irish Names of Places."

PRIZES OPEN TO JUNIOR MEMBERS ONLY.

1. Prize of 10/6 offered by Mr. D. J. CARPENTER for the best Collection of Land and Freshwater Shells.
2. Prize of 10/6 offered by Mr. J. A. S. STENDALL for the best Essay on our migrant Birds.
3. Prize of 10/6 offered by Mr. A. McI. CLELAND for the best Collection of local Fossils.
4. Prize of 10/6 offered by Capt. CHASE for the best Collection of Grasses.
5. Prize of 10/6 offered by Mr. R. J. WELCH for the best Collection of Marine Shells.

In each instance the work must be the personal effort of the competitor. Collections must be accompanied by particulars of localities and dates.

All Collections are to be sent, addressed to the Secretaries, B. N. F. C., The Museum, College Square North, Belfast, not later than October 31st, 1926, and will be exhibited at the Conversazione on October 19th, when the Prizes will be given.

Competitors for the PRESIDENT'S PRIZE, will find Mr. A. W. STELFOX'S Key List (well illustrated) of the Irish Wasps, in the May number of "The Irish Naturalists' Journal" (Vol. I. Part 5, 1926) most useful.

Do not forget Birds Eggs. Lots of rare

CONDITIONS.

Special Marks will in all cases be given for information gained by **Field Work** rather than from text-books.

The Committee does not bind itself to give the full or any Prize in case of insufficient merit.

The Committee reserves the right to retain any of the Prize Specimens or Photographs.

For further information Competitors are requested to apply to the Honorary Secretaries.

"The Irish Naturalists' Journal."

Members will find this new Journal, the Official Organ of the Club and other Irish Scientific Societies, very useful to them in any natural history or archaeological work they may be interested in. For information apply to the Hon. Secretary of the Journal Committee, Mr. W. M. Crawford, Orissa, Marlborough Park, Belfast

plants must not be left

JUNIOR SECTION.



COMMITTEE.

J. A. S. STENDALL, M.R.I.A., M.B.O.U., *Chairman.*

MISS W. J. SAYERS, B.A.

MISS NORA FISHER.

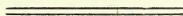
MISS NORAH NEILL.

MISS NORA STENDALL.

E. N. CARROTHERS.

RONALD CRAWFORD.

D. J. CARPENTER, *Hon. Secretary.*



During the Summer, Excursions will be held for the benefit of Junior Members, arranged as far as possible to illustrate in the field the lectures given during the winter months.

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Naturalists' Field Club:
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FOREWORD.

The following account of the origin and progress of the Club was delivered, in substance, as my Presidential Address, on 16th November, and is now printed in response to many requests at that time and since. My purpose in compiling it was to help my fellow-members to visualise the time and place in which the Club was born, its nurses in infancy, its tutors in adolescence, and some of its achievements when it reached maturity.

A. A. C.

January, 1938.

BELFAST NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB:

Its Origin and Progress.

In the opening months of 1863, the year in which the Club was born, the world was in its usual state of unrest. It may be of interest to glance, in passing, at some of the causes of the strife and bitterness then prevailing.

America was embroiled in Civil War. The fratricidal struggle between the Northern and Southern States, on the question of negro slavery, had been raging from 1859, and was not to cease until 1865.

In Italy, Garibaldi was completing the triumphant campaign which ended in the liberation of his country and the placing of King Victor Emmanuel firmly on the throne.

The quarrel between Prussia and Denmark for possession of the Duchies of Holstein and Schleswig had every appearance of leading to war.

The Greeks had deposed their king, Otho, and were trying, in vain, to induce our own Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, to take his place.

The French Emperor, Napoleon III, was exasperating Spain by an effort to place an Austrian archduke, Maximilian, on the throne of Mexico. He succeeded in his effort, unfortunately for poor Maximilian, whose wife became insane, and who was, himself, shot by his unruly subjects in 1867.

Poland was in a state of armed insurrection against Russian rule, which resulted in its being deprived of its separate government and losing even the semblance of independence.

In England a shortage in the supply of cotton, consequent on the American War, was producing much distress and unrest among the mill-workers of Lancashire; and in Ireland Fenianism was rampant, and secret preparations for a "rising" were being feverishly pushed forward.

In 1863 life was vastly different from what it is to-day. Seventy-four years ago women wore crinoline (a long petticoat made to project all round by means of wire hoops); they encased themselves in whale-bone stays or corsets, wore thick bodices, woollen stockings, and high-buttoned or elastic-sided boots; their hair was piled over pads on top of their heads, and most of them had never heard of lipstick. Children looked quite "cute" in little pantalettes with lace edges.

Men shaved their upper lips and chins, wore high-crowned hats, thick flannel underwear, big watches and bigger watch-chains, worked from twelve to fourteen hours a day, and lived to a ripe old age.

To-day, women wear silk stockings or no stockings, short and narrow skirts, low shoes with high heels, no corsets, and an ounce of underwear. They "bob" their hair and cultivate "perms," paint their lips, their cheeks and their finger and toe nails, powder their noses, drink cocktails, and smoke cigarettes.

Men, nowadays, have high blood-pressure (unheard of seventy years ago), in many cases do not wear hats, keep up the instalments on their motor cars, talk about "going round in fifty-seven,"

"Tumble Nature heels o'er head and, yelling with the
yelling street,
Set the feet above the brain and swear the brain is in
the feet,"
as Tennyson writes; work as few hours as possible,
and die young.



And the homes of the people have experienced great changes. The modern bungalow, with simple but comfortably furnished sitting-rooms, and hair mattresses and open windows in the bedrooms, has taken the place of the house of the sixties with the canary's cage and a pot of aspidistras in the parlour window, a photograph album and the children's school

prizes on the parlour table, and a feather bed and closed windows in every bedroom.



Coming to our own town of **Belfast**, what was it like in 1863? The population was about 122,000, now it is nearly 438,000. There were no typewriters, no telephones, no safety bicycles, no trams, no taxis, no aeroplanes, no public parks, no Royal Avenue, no Botanic Avenue, no Victoria Street, no Lombard Street, no Albert Memorial.

The town had three bridges—the Queen's, the Ormeau, and the Albert (commonly known as "the ha'penny bridge," because until recently it had been owned by a private Company who charged a toll on the traffic). The Queen's Bridge, built in 1842, took the place of the old "Long Bridge," which consisted of twenty one arches and was eight hundred and forty feet long. A local poet wrote of it—

"Spanning the Lagan, now we have in view,
The great Long Bridge, with arches twenty-two."

He explained in a footnote that it had only twenty-one, but for the sake of rhyme he had to add another arch!

The most prominent man in the town was John Rea, a police-court attorney of eccentric character. He cultivated a style of advocacy that would not be tolerated to-day; his forcible removal from Court was of frequent occurrence. He described himself as an "Orange-Fenian," and was the idol of the riff-raff and hooligan element of the population. Someone has described him as "a great burly figure, with massive shoulders supporting a strong pugnacious head, aggressive side-whiskers, . . . and a nose that sniffed the battle from afar." There is a story told of him that on one occasion he was in Omagh defending some Orangemen accused of a misdemeanour, and, elated by his success on their behalf, they

entertained him after the trial, drinking stout while he drank only lemonade. He regaled them with the Irish patriotic poetry of Thomas Davis "till they were in tears," it is said, the entertainment ending in a procession through the town of Orangemen "full of patriotism and porter."



The intellectual life of Belfast in 1863 was confined within a narrow circle. A Natural History Society had been established in 1821 for "the cultivation of Zoology, Botany, and Mineralogy in all their branches, more especially the investigation of the Natural History and Antiquities of Ireland." Ten years later (1831) the Society entered into occupation of the special building which had been erected by public subscription for the holding of its meetings, and to house its collection of natural history and antiquarian specimens. It should be mentioned that text-books, compiled by a member of the Natural History Society, Robert Patterson, F.R.S., did much to foster the study of natural history in the schools of the period. In 1840 the Society adopted its present name—The Belfast Natural History and Philosophical Society. Its membership in those early days included such distinguished scientists as William Thompson, author of "The Natural History of Ireland," and John Templeton, one of the foremost naturalists of his time.

In 1860 a few members of the Natural History and Philosophical Society organised a course of scientific lectures in Belfast under the Science and Art Department, South Kensington. Professor Jukes, who afterwards became Director of the Geological Society of Ireland, and whose "Student's Manual of Geology," edited by Geikie, is well-known to some of us, was sent by the Department, and he delivered a series of lectures on geology to classes of nearly four hundred. The Natural History and Philosophical Society was greatly encouraged by the interest shown, and decided

to continue the good work. Through the Science and Art Department it obtained the services of **Ralph Tate, F.G.S.**, a distinguished student of the School of Mines in London. He conducted classes in Belfast and the neighbouring towns in Geology, Zoology and Botany. While in Belfast he compiled a "Flora Belfastiensis," the earliest Ulster "Flora." He made a special feature of field work in his course of instruction.

At the end of Tate's first series of lectures some of his pupils, including men afterwards well-known in the Field Club—S. A. Stewart, George Donaldson, and Hugh Robinson—determined to continue their fellowship during the summer months, and arranged to meet once a week and go somewhere for a walk after business hours, or for a Saturday afternoon run on one of the excursion trains. In this way they kept up their interest in natural history, and resumed their class-work in the winter with undiminished zest.

Early in 1863 Mr. Tate had occasion to go to London, and during his absence the following letter appeared in the "Northern Whig" (January 27th):—

FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB.

Sir,—An earnest desire to awaken the naturalists of this town, especially the young ones, to the want of a "Field Naturalists' Club" in this, our Northern Athens, and which I sincerely hope will not continue long, has induced me to trouble you with this letter.

Field Naturalists' Clubs are formed for the furtherance of natural history by means of excursions in the Summer to some well-known provincial locality rich in Nature's beauties and wonders, there to observe, collect, and admire. The locality selected for an excursion is generally rich in the subject or branch of Natural History for which the object of the excursions is intended, and the members are always accompanied by some of the local eminent Naturalists, who lecture to them on the subject of the day's excursion. Prizes are also awarded to the party who succeeds in collecting and arranging the largest variety of specimens in the day's excursion, and season prizes for the best collection in every branch at the end of the season. Throughout the winter, meetings are held in the lecture room.

Clubs of this kind are now quite common in England, the most prosperous being in Manchester and Liverpool, each having from between six hundred to seven hundred members; and one of the chief causes, as stated in the report, of their great rise and popularity, is the admission of lady members, whose presence doubles the enjoyment both of rural rambles and scientific investigation.

We have a Natural History and Philosophical Society, which supplies a want for our older and more enlightened Naturalists, but the papers and topics read and discussed are in most cases too abstruse and scientific for the young Naturalist to comprehend or appreciate, and also the subscription is beyond his means. Therefore, what is wanted is a Society which will elucidate Natural History in a popular and pleasing manner to the young Naturalist, and the subscription of which will come within the bounds of his pocket—say 5/-—which is the subscription generally established in all the English Clubs.

The study of nature must always refresh the enquiring mind, and every branch of Natural History, whether it be the study of plants, insects, or that of birds and animals, shells, minerals, fossils, &c., has in this district wide fields for the zealous student to explore. Now that nature is just awakening from her winter sleep it is therefore a very suitable time to commence to study her. I hope, therefore, that the formation of such a Society will at once be “taken up,” and also that the eminent Naturalists of our present Society will come forward and further its promotion.

I remain, your obedient Servant,

Belfast, Jan. 26, 1863.

W. T. C.

Stewart, Donaldson, Robinson and their friends did not know what to make of this. They thought that they had a sort of little Naturalists' Field Club in their own way, but here was something which might lead to a bigger thing than they had contemplated. They met—probably in Stewart's shop in North Street—and discussed the matter, and Stewart and Robinson were deputed to follow up W.T.C.'s letter, which they did, their letters appearing in the “Whig” of Monday, February 2nd.

Robinson's letter reads :—

FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB.

Sir,—I was much pleased on reading your paper of 27th inst., with the excellent suggestions thrown out by your correspondent, “W.T.C.,” respecting the formation of a Field Naturalists' Club in Belfast.

I would gladly join such a Club, and have no doubt that a large number of young people would consider it a great privilege to be connected with it, as it would be calculated to improve and expand the mind, while the excursions would improve the health and strengthen the constitution, enabling the members to attend to their avocations with clearer heads and lighter hearts. Many in Belfast may not be aware of the classes that have been open for the last two years in the Museum here, under the "Department of Science and Art," comprising Botany, Natural History, Geology, Mineralogy, &c. Examinations are held in these classes in April or May, and prizes and medals are awarded by the Government to successful competitors. It is also usual for these classes to have frequent excursions to places of scientific interest for the purpose of making collections of specimens in the different branches they are connected with.

I think it would be a great advantage to those who wish to join the "Club" to join the above classes, the subscription to which is a mere trifle, as by doing so they would get some knowledge of the different sciences before the weather would be suitable for either botanical or other excursions; and as these classes are not held during the summer months, I would suggest that all the class members should join the "Club," and continue their excursions at stated periods during the time the classes are closed. By this means a knowledge of the natural objects and rare forms of the district might be obtained, which it would be very difficult for a single person to gain without the assistance of his fellow-Naturalists.

Hoping that some of our eminent men of science and influence will take up the subject, and for the sake of those less learned than themselves set about it in earnest, and not cease until they get formed a "Field Naturalists' Club," and if once formed there is little danger of the youths of Belfast being last in the race for fame.

I remain, Sir, yours respectfully,

"A YOUNG GEOLOGIST."

Sam Stewart's letter was as follows:—

Sir,—I am glad to see your correspondent "W.T.C." calling attention to the want in our town of a Field Naturalists' Club.

Belfast surely contains as many ardent students of Natural Science as would maintain efficiently a Club conducted on the plan proposed by your correspondent. Since the formation of the railway lines which radiate from our town, we have easy access to a district second to no other in the United Kingdom for the study of the various branches of Natural Science. The Geologist has choice of many formations of palaeozoic and of secondary rocks rich in fossil remains of the fauna of former epochs. The Conchologist has a magnificent sea coast to explore, and the beautiful diversity of mountains and valley scenery which we possess makes it a delightful occupation to be engaged in making a collection of examples of the flora of our country.

We have in Belfast many gentlemen whose scientific attainments reflect honour on our town, and I do hope that some of these gentlemen may be induced to countenance such a Club as your correspondent has sketched. Under their guidance it would be a great success and would impart a lasting stimulus in our locality to pursuits whose value cannot be over estimated.

I happen to know that several other parties with whom I am acquainted are anxious for the establishment of some organisation to conduct scientific excursions.

I am, Your Obedient Servant,

S.A.S.

Belfast, January 29th, 1863.

“W.T.C.,” whose letter originated the correspondence, got into communication with the three friends through the good offices of the editor of the “Whig,” and wrote to them personally, inviting them to his house to see what could be done. He turned out to be **W. T. Chew**, a young business-man who was interested in the entomology of the district.

The correspondence had appeared at an opportune time, as the ground had been prepared by Tate, who, on his return from London, took up the project with enthusiasm. Fortunately, Tate, previous to coming to Belfast, had had some experience of Field Clubs in England. He drafted a document for signature by persons who were willing to guarantee the expenses necessary “to form a Society to be called the ‘Belfast Naturalists’ Field Club,’ for the practical study of Natural History in all its branches, by holding at least six field meetings in the year, and fortnightly (or otherwise) evening meetings for the reading of papers by members; as far as possible such papers to treat of the Natural History and Archæology of the district.”

This document, in fact, provided a draft constitution for the proposed Club, and our present Constitution merely amplifies it. It was signed by a considerable number of Tate’s pupils at the Science Classes and by others interested—in all, fifty-three men and a few ladies.

It was considered that there was sufficient support to warrant the calling of a public meeting, which was held in the Museum Buildings, on 6th March. At this meeting Mr. George C. Hyndman presided and Mr. Tate acted as secretary. Rules were formulated along the lines suggested by the document



George C. Hyndman.



(L. to R.)—S. A. Stewart, Ralph Tate, Wm. Gray, Joseph Wright.

from which I have quoted, office-bearers were appointed, and **the Club was launched.**

The office-bearers appointed were:—

Secretaries—Ralph Tate and W. T. Chew.

Treasurer—A. F. Herdman (Alexander F. Herdman was a member of the well-known flax-spinning family who established a flourishing manufacturing business at Sion Mills, near Strabane. He died towards the middle of the Club's first year).

Committee—John Grainger, M.A.; S. A. Stewart, William M'Millan, John W. Forrester, Robert Workman, William Campbell, William H. Patterson, John S. Holden, John W. Browne, Thomas Workman, Hugh Robinson, and Samuel Symington.

The Committee met on 13th March and elected **John Grainger** as Chairman. Afterwards well-known as the Rev. Canon Grainger, D.D., of Broughshane, he was at this time about to enter on his lifework in the Church. He had been educated at Belfast Academy, then situated at the corner of Academy Street and Donegall Street, of which the Rev. Dr. R. J. Bryce was Headmaster. Dr. Bryce's brother, James, taught Mathematics and Science, and on Saturday half-holidays he gave his pupils practical instruction in geology and other branches of natural history by excursions to the Cave Hill and other suitable places; in fact, James Bryce was a pioneer in the introduction of Natural History as a branch of school education. Later on, the Grainger family moved to Holywood, and here John Grainger came into intimate fellowship with Robert Patterson's two sons, William and Robert, both of them keen Naturalists. He entered T.C.D. in 1849, graduated in 1854, and finished his divinity course in 1855. For some years afterwards he was occupied in the business of his father, who was a shipowner, and it was not until the 21st December, 1863, that his ordination took place. He remained in Belfast for a couple of months, completing his term in the Chairmanship of the Club, and then left for a curacy in Dublin. Grainger never wrote much on the scientific subjects which interested him. He was more than anything else a collector, and his accumulation of some 60,000 natural history and archæological specimens found a home before his death in the Belfast Municipal Museum in Royal Avenue. We all remember "The

Grainger Room." He died in November, 1891, and was buried at Broughshane, where, for twenty years he had ministered in the Parish Church. A few years ago, at one of our excursions, we visited his grave.

Next on the list of members of the first Committee comes the name of **Samuel Alexander Stewart**. Dr. Praeger has well said of him—

"Among the men of science which the North of Ireland has produced—and the list includes some famous names—Samuel Alexander Stewart stands unique. He was a remarkable example of a man who, starting life almost without education, and from the age of eleven years earning his livelihood by long days of scarcely remunerative work, nevertheless succeeded, by sheer determination and industry, in attaining a recognised position in the world of science and in being looked up to as a local authority not only in botany, but in zoology and geology as well."

He began life as an errand boy, later on succeeding to his father's little business of trunk-making in Lower North Street. He came under the influence of Ralph Tate at the science classes, and, as we have seen, he, Robinson, Chew, and Tate set the Club agoing. How much it owes to Stewart's enthusiasm and driving force in its early years it would be difficult to over-estimate. He helped Tate with his "Flora Belfastiensis," and he helped Dickie with his "Flora of Ulster" in 1864. Though he devoted much time and toil to the study of local geology, on which he produced several valuable reports and papers, his reputation as a scientist really rests on his work as a botanist. From a "List of the Mosses of the North-East of Ireland" he passed on, in collaboration with a young friend, Thomas Hughes Corry, to a general survey of the local flora. On the death of Corry by drowning, while studying the flora of Lough Gill, Stewart struggled on single-handed, and in 1888 produced his monumental work, "A Flora of the North-East of Ireland." He had been Assistant Curator of the Museum in College Square North from 1880, but still carried on his business in North Street. He gave up the shop in 1886, and in 1891 succeeded William Darragh as Curator. He retired in 1907, and died in 1910, at the age of 83.

William M'Millan was one of the five young men who met at Mr. Chew's house to discuss the formation of a Field Club. He was probably a schoolmaster at that time, afterwards becoming an Inspector of National Schools. When entertaining the Club to



Rev. Canon Grainger, D.D.



Wm. H. Patterson, M.R.I.A.

dinner at his residence, Loy House, Cookstown, in 1884, on the occasion of its first visit to the district, he remarked that nothing he had ever done had given him more pleasure than the part he had taken in the early life of the Club.

The next name on the first Committee is **John William Forrester**. He was connected with the firm of Richardson Brothers and Company, "linen, flax, grain, and general commission agents," of 30 Donegall Place. At a Club meeting in December, 1865, he contributed a paper on "A Stone in the Museum said to be Con O'Neill's Tombstone"; in March, 1866, he read a paper on "The Round Towers of Ireland;" in February, 1867, one on "Tintern Abbey," and in March, 1868, one on "Gossip about old Belfast." His name disappeared from the roll about 1871.

Robert Workman was a son of Robert Workman, of Windsor, a prominent Belfast business man. He was educated at Queen's College, graduating B.A. in 1863, with Honours in Natural Science, and taking his M.A. the following year. He became minister of Glasstry Presbyterian Church, in the Ards, spending a long life there. He died in 1924.

Of **William Campbell** I know nothing. His membership was short, his name disappearing from the roll by 1871.

William Hugh Patterson's name comes next. He was the eldest son of Robert Patterson, F.R.S., whose very useful natural history manuals I have referred to. He was a keen naturalist and archæologist. And in other directions he distinguished himself; his "Glossary of Words and Phrases used in Antrim and Down," published in 1880, is a treasure-house of Ulster dialect. He died in 1918.

John Sinclair Holden was a son of John Holden, a Belfast rate collector, who resided at Holywood. J. S. Holden was at this time a medical student at Queen's, where he graduated M.D. about 1865. In 1863-4 he conducted classes in Chemistry in one of the class-rooms of the Academical Institution. After obtaining his medical qualification, he practised for a time at Glenarm, and then removed to Sudbury, in Suffolk, where he spent the remainder of his long life, dying at the age of 86 in 1923. He never lost his early interest in Geology and Archæology, and was a

Corresponding Member of the Club till the day of his death.

John W. Browne was, I presume, John Walton Browne, who afterwards became a leading Belfast surgeon, and was knighted in 1921. He was born in 1845, so that in 1863 he was probably a student at Queen's.

The next name is that of a young man of twenty, **Thomas Workman**, who devoted himself to the study of spiders. He travelled extensively on the continent of Europe, North and South America, and the Far East. His collection of spiders included specimens from all parts of the world, and his name was given to at least two new tropical varieties. Besides a valuable Irish List in the "Entomologist," 1880, he wrote a book in two volumes on "Malaysian Spiders." The first volume was published in 1896, but the second, although completed before his death, remains unpublished. He died in 1900. He was a linen merchant and also one of the founders of the firm of Workman, Clark & Co., Ltd., shipbuilders. Major Robert Workman, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Linen Hall Library, is his son.

Hugh Robinson, born in 1845, at 26 North Street, was the eldest son of Samuel D. Robinson, a brush manufacturer and proprietor of the Temperance Hotel, 82 Donegall Street, which still bears the name of the family. Hugh Robinson was for some years connected with the wholesale drapery trade, to which he had served an apprenticeship. He early showed a taste for the study of Natural Science and won several prizes at the classes under the Science and Art Department. Eventually he became Secretary of the Belfast School of Art and, in 1884, Registrar of the Royal Belfast Academical Institution. He took a leading part in the formation of the Club. For eleven years he acted as its Secretary, with William Gray as his colleague for six years and William Swanston for five. From 1887 to 1889 he was President. He died in 1890.

Samuel Symington, whose name is last on the list, was a yarn buyer for Brookfield Linen Co., Ltd., and lived at Dundonald.



The Club held its first Field Meeting at Islandmagee on 6th April, 1863. Members and friends to the number of eighty-eight went by train to Ballycarry station. The Lias beds near Barney's Point were visited, and the characteristic fossils of the formation obtained in abundance. Mr. Tate and William Gray appear to have acted as conductors.

The second excursion was to Lough Neagh, the third to Castle Espie, and subsequently visits were paid to Drumbo and the Giant's Ring, Carrickfergus, Magilligan and Benevenagh, Whitehead, and Woodburn Glen.

During the winter eight meetings were held, and it is interesting to note who were the readers of papers and their subjects:—Mr. Chew ("The aim and progress of the Club"), Mr. Tate ("The Geographical Distribution of the Plants around Belfast"), Mr. Stewart ("The occurrence of some rare and little known plants in the Belfast district"), Mr. Forrester ("Some Remarks on the Wheat Plant"), Mr. Robert Workman, B.A. ("British Forest Trees"), Mr. Holden ("Some connecting links between plants and animals"), Mr. W. H. Patterson ("An Account of Lough Neagh, historical and physical, with a notice of some of its Fishes"), Mr. Tate ("The correlation of Liassic strata of Belfast with those of England and the Continent"), and Mr. T. H. Browne ("Nineveh and its remains").

In the following Spring the Club lost the services of both its first Secretaries, Mr. Chew leaving for London, to occupy a new business position there, and Mr. Tate to enter on the Assistant Secretaryship of the Geological Society. Of Mr. Chew we hear nothing more, but Mr. Tate's subsequent career is worthy of record. His official connection with the Geological Society did not last long, for we soon find him making a geological and mining survey of a South American State, and not long after he received an appointment worthy of his abilities, the Professorship of Natural Science in the University of Adelaide, South Australia, which he held until his death in 1901 or 1902. In 1869 he visited Belfast, and joined in a Club excursion to Larne and Islandmagee, and again in 1896 he paid a visit to the North of Ireland.

In the second year of the Club's existence a distinguished man became a member, **Professor Wyville**

Thomson, one of the foremost zoologists of last century. He was a Scotsman who filled the Chair of Zoology and Botany in Queen's College. In 1869, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, and in 1876 he was knighted. But by that time he had left Belfast, and was Professor of Natural History in Edinburgh University. He was best known in connection with the "Challenger" Expedition to explore the mysteries of ocean depths, and to examine, name and classify the strange forms of life found there. One of his students in Belfast—the late Reverend and Right Honourable Thomas Hamilton, Vice-Chancellor of Queen's University, writes of him:—

"Who that joined in the Saturday botanical excursions can ever forget them? Sometimes their scene was the bosky shades of Collin Glen, sometimes the Cave Hill, sometimes the banks of the Lagan. Thomson, with his vasculum slung on his shoulder, and the ribbons of his Glengarry cap streaming in the wind behind him, strode rapidly along at the head of his band of students, halting ever and anon to speak of the plants of note that were discovered. Then, as the afternoon wore on Professor and students would gather under the shade of some umbrageous tree, or on a mossy bank, while the treasures that had been collected were discussed along with the sandwiches for which the morning's ramble had prepared excellent appetites."

A charming picture of student life in Belfast seventy years ago.



On 10th and 11th June, 1868, the Club, to the number of thirty-four, held a Field Meeting at the Giant's Causeway, with William Gray as conductor. Mr. Mack, a well-known Coleraine photographer of the time, took a group on "the Honeycomb." This—the earliest photograph in existence of the Club—is reproduced on another page.



Robert Welch used to talk of the Club's "luck" in the matter of weather, and, no doubt, we are, as a rule, extremely fortunate in this respect; but, nevertheless, untoward events have from time to time occurred. For example, in August, 1867, a party of thirteen, on a two-day excursion, were "marooned" in the Glens of Antrim Hotel, Cushendall.

"It had been determined," write the Secretaries, "to visit Glendun and Glenariff, and every arrangement was made for the purpose, but ere the day dawned a violent storm of drenching rain set in, and continued, without the slightest intermission, for the entire day, cutting off all hope of the

party's anticipated enjoyments. The swelling flood seemed to rejoice in their disappointment, and the whistling wind to mock their leader's call. Imprisoned thus, the interval between an early breakfast and the hour for lunch was passed in pleasant games, and the severity of fate's decree was softened by the melody of song."

But worse befell those members attending the Field Club Conference at Rosapenna in July, 1910, who had been on a trip to Tory Island. Dr. Praeger tells the story:—

"By five o'clock we were aboard again enjoying a hearty tea, and the 'Cynthia' steamed off into the fog, which was slowly becoming denser. Experiences were exchanged, observations compared, notes made, and specimens safely put away. Meanwhile, Horn Head being—presumably—re-passed, the steamer edged southward, endeavouring to find her way into Sheep Haven. The light north-easterly breeze died away; the slight lazy roll on the ocean ceased, showing that the vessel was now within the heads; but still no land, until at length a clamour of sea-birds, growing gradually louder, arose to starboard, and then suddenly the white foam around a conical stack became visible close ahead, followed by a long line of foam along the base of a range of cliffs. The place could not be identified, and so in thirteen fathoms the anchor went down. Air and water alike were still, and the only sound was the incessant clamour of the birds—the musical cries of hundreds of kittiwakes, the hoarse notes of guillemots and razorbills and the shrill piping of their young, and the calling of herring gulls. Time passed slowly, but presently, as darkness was falling, a cheer heralded the approach of a long white fishing boat. From her crew the befogged party learned their position—close in under the 'Little Horn,' south-east of Horn Head; but in view of the gathering darkness and the heaviness of the fog, the captain decided not to move. So the party settled down for a night at sea. A few cushions and rugs were produced, and life-belts were requisitioned as pillows. A smoking concert was organised on the upper deck, in which Mr. Donald, assistant manager at Rosapenna Hotel, proved invaluable; and at 10-30 "dinner" was announced—a cup of tea, without milk, and one sandwich all round. By 1 a.m. all was silence, but a couple of hours later the birds again took up their chorus, and a new day came. At four o'clock our indomitable waiter went round with a number of lumps of sugar in a saucer—the last of the provisions. At seven the fog seemed a trifle lighter, and the captain warily crept away eastward, and presently land was sighted which was made out to be Black Rock, off Rosguill. Then the end came with startling suddenness. The mist began to lift; soon the sun came bursting through; and by 8 o'clock the 'Cynthia' came up to Downings Pier in full sunlight, with the mist rolling in sheets of flowing white off the surrounding hills. Never was breakfast more welcome than that to which the party sat down half an hour later."

Let us now look at the members who have from time to time occupied the Chair of the Club.

The first President (or Chairman, as he was then called) was, as we have seen, **John Grainger**, afterwards Canon Grainger, of Broughshane.

He was succeeded by **George Crawford Hyndman**, an auctioneer, who was born in Belfast in 1796. His mind had a scientific bent, and his early ambition was to study medicine, but for family reasons he had to take up a business career. However, his love for science was not allowed to lie dormant, and he became an ardent student of natural history. Conchology was his favourite subject. We have seen that he presided at the inaugural meeting, and he served the Club faithfully as a member of Committee, and as Chairman for two years.

His successor was **Professor James Thomson**, who held office for seven years. During that time (in 1869-1870) the Chairman became known as the President. Thomson was a son of Dr. James Thomson, head of the Mathematical Department in the Royal Belfast Academical Institution. William Thomson, afterwards Lord Kelvin, was his younger brother. In 1857, he was appointed Professor of Civil Engineering in Queen's College, resigning in 1873 for a similar chair in Glasgow University. He died in 1892. While residing in Belfast he did some pioneer work as an advocate of public parks: in 1852 he read a paper before a Belfast Society "On Public Parks in connection with Large Towns, with a suggestion for the formation of a Park in Belfast." In this he advocated the purchase of land by towns, for public parks. It took the idea almost twenty years to sink into the minds of the Belfast Corporation. Our first Park—Ormeau—was not opened until 1871.

The next President was **John Anderson**, a County Derry man, who was a member of the firm of Young & Anderson, wholesale drapers, Donegall Street. He wrote an excellent "History of the Linen Hall Library" (1888), but his best known and most valuable work is a "Catalogue of Early Belfast-Printed Books," an admirable piece of bibliography which appeared in five parts between 1885 and 1902.

His successor was the **Reverend William M'Ilwaine**, who held office for five successive years. He was a

Dublin man, and incumbent of St. George's Church, High Street. He was a keen controversialist in matters ecclesiastical as well as scientific. I have a copy of a rather scarce pamphlet which he published in 1874, vigorously combating the claim of the then incumbent of St. Anne's, the Rev. Robert Hannay (father of "George A. Birmingham," the novelist) to the designation of "Vicar of Belfast." In that same year (1874), Tyndall's Address to the British Association on Darwin's evolution hypothesis, drew from him a caustic reply which he delivered as his Presidential Address in his first year of office. He read papers to the Club on such subjects as "Scientific Nomenclature," "Sponges, their structure and growth," and "Life, as treated in the theories of modern biologists." He wrote articles for the old "Ulster Journal of Archæology," and for "Science Gossip," and even perpetrated poetry. Arthur W. Stelfox, of the National Museum, Dublin, is his grandson.

Next came **William Gray** for two years. He was a Cork man, who settled in Belfast in 1862 as representative of the Board of Works in the district. He joined the Club immediately on its formation, and for over fifty years he was one of its most energetic members. He held the office of Secretary, along with W. H. Ferguson, from 1865 to 1869, and with Hugh Robinson from 1870 to 1875—ten years in all, and he was President for a second term of two years, 1889-91. He applied himself principally to the local study of flint implements, producing a booklet on the subject entitled "Irish Worked Flints, Ancient and Modern." Sometimes Gray was rather "difficult." When, in 1891, William Swanston proposed that the honorary membership of the Club should be conferred on Robert Welch for his very valuable contribution of photographs to the Club's Album of Antiquities, Gray strenuously opposed on the ground that honorary membership was intended for bestowal on very distinguished men or eminent scientists who had given assistance to the Club, and also because he considered that the fact of Welch being a professional photographer seriously detracted from the value of his gift. Gray's ungracious attitude did not meet with any support from the Club, Frank Bigger expressing the general opinion when he remarked that he altogether differed from Gray in the

idea that honorary membership should only be conferred on "big-wigs" who had done little for the Club, while hard-working members, who had conferred on it considerable benefit, should go unhonoured. But Gray did good work for the City by his persistent and ultimately successful advocacy of the adoption of the Public Libraries Act. He died in 1917.

His successor in the Chair was **Robert Young**, afterwards the Right Honourable Robert Young, a well-known Belfast architect. He was a pupil of Sir Charles Lanyon, County Surveyor of Antrim, and acted for a time as his chief assistant in railway construction, bridge building, and similar work—the three-arched viaduct spanning Glendun was his design. He also acted as resident engineer at Athlone for William Dargan when the railway from Dublin was being made. Mr. Young was an enthusiastic archæologist, and an ardent student of ancient Irish music. When I knew him he was almost 90, vigorous and energetic, and exceedingly kindly and courteous. He died in 1917, at the age of 95.

Lieutenant-General Smythe, of Abbeyville, White-abbey, succeeded Mr. Young as President. He joined the Club about 1876, and died about 1888. His chief interest was archæology. Many of us are familiar with the fine Celtic cross erected over his grave in Carnmoney churchyard.

William Hugh Patterson followed for two years. I have already referred to him as a member of the first Committee. Then Canon Grainger was again called to the Chair for a couple of years, and was succeeded by **Hugh Robinson**, another member of the first Committee, followed by William Gray for a second term of office. That brings us down to 1891, when **John Vinycomb** became President. He was for many years head of the art department in Marcus Ward's. His reputation as an artist rests chiefly on his work as a designer of *ex libris*. Some of his heraldic bookplates are masterpieces.

William Swanston, a manufacturer of linen commodities, followed Vinycomb. He joined the Club in 1867, became a member of Committee in 1869, and was Secretary from 1875 till 1890 (15 years), when he became Librarian. In 1894 he was elected an Honorary Member, and he was the first recipient of the Club



Thomas Workman, J.P.



B.N.F.C. at Giant's Causeway, 1868.

Medal (1923). Geology was his chief study, and with Charles Lapworth, afterwards Professor of Geology in Mason University College, Birmingham, he carried out a very important piece of work on the fossil remains, mostly graptolites, in the Silurian rocks of County Down. The result of their investigation is embodied in an Appendix to the Club's *Proceedings*, 1876-7.

The next President was **F. W. Lockwood**, an architect and civil engineer. He contributed to the Club's winter meetings papers on "Round Towers," "Sculptures on the Church at Maghera," "English Castles of Strangford Lough," and "Crannoges in Loughmourne."

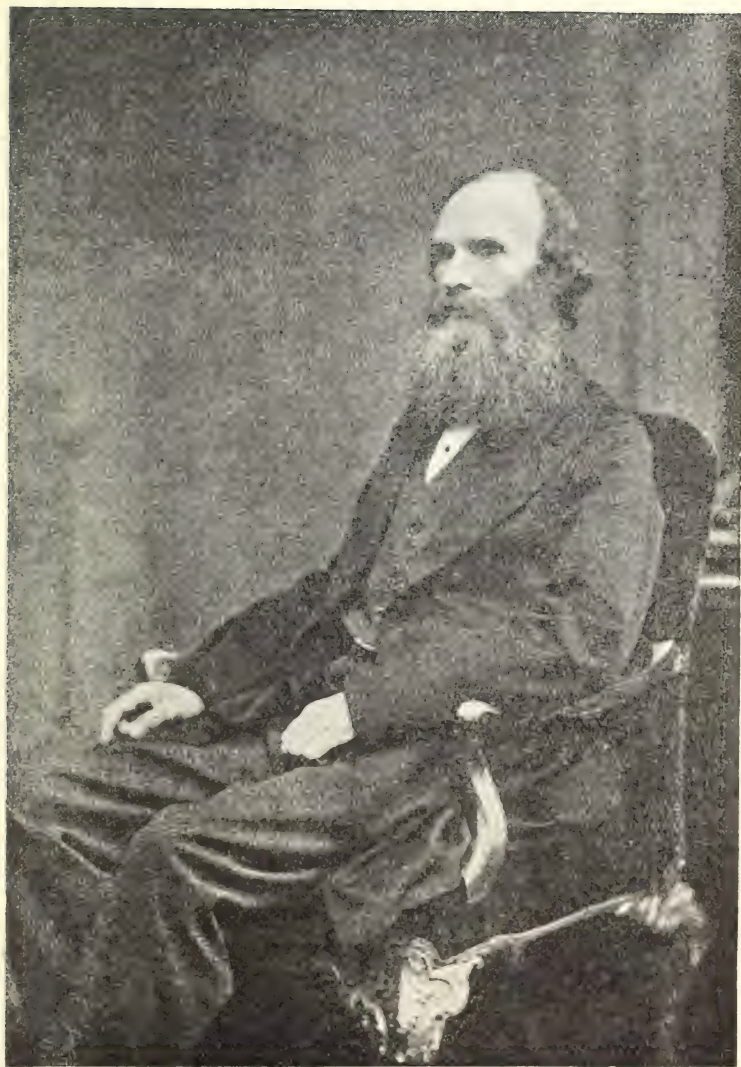
In two years he was succeeded by **Lavens Matthewson Ewart**, a linen manufacturer, second son of Sir William Ewart, Bt., by his wife, Isabel, daughter of Lavens Matthewson, of Newtownstewart. He compiled a useful Diocesan Handbook for Down and Connor and Dromore, and was a frequent contributor to the second series of the "Ulster Journal of Archæology." He was best known as an antiquary and collector, particularly of local maps and books. His collection of Belfast-printed books is housed in the Linen Hall Library. He died in 1898.

Next came the **Reverend Coslett Herbert Waddell**, Vicar of Saintfield from 1890 till 1912, and then Rector of Greyabbey till his death in 1919. He specialised in mosses and in critical genera of flowering plants such as brambles, roses, hawkweeds, and knotweeds. For forty years, from his election in 1879, he maintained a warm interest in the Club, serving long on its Committee and occupying the Chair for two years. He was followed by **Francis Joseph Bigger**, lawyer, antiquary, and historian. I use again some sentences I wrote of him at the time of his death, 1926—"For more than thirty years he was a prolific writer on the history, antiquities, and old social customs of his native province. He edited, with conspicuous ability, the 'Ulster Journal of Archæology' (second series, 1894 to 1911). . . . When the 'Irish Naturalists' Journal' was started, he gave it his cordial support, consenting to act as a Sectional Editor for Archæology and contributing several articles. . . . He loved all Nature, and was never happier than in the garden at Ardriagh among his feathered friends and his flowers." Bigger

was succeeded by **W. J. Fennell**, an architect. He contributed papers on such subjects as "Half an hour in Canterbury," "Bangor," "Great Burial Mounds of Lough Crew." Next came **W. H. Phillips**, who had the unique distinction of serving the Club as Treasurer from 1864-5 to 1869-70, and from 1891-2 to 1912-13—twenty-eight years. He was one of its original members. An ardent fern lover, almost all his contributions to the winter meetings were on the subject of his favourite plant. He died at Hollywood, comparatively recently, at a ripe old age. His successor, **Robert Patterson**, was a grandson of Robert Patterson, F.R.S., to whom I have made several references. Robert Patterson (the grandson) was much interested in birds. His death took place in 1931.

Nevin Harkness Foster, a Tyrone man, came next. He had been a member from 1899, and served as Secretary from 1903 till 1905. He was President for 1910-11, and Treasurer from 1913 till 1917. A student of Zoology, his principal interest was birds, but he was also interested in woodlice, contributing an Appendix on them to the *Proceedings* for 1917-18. He received the Club Medal in 1924. Then followed another Tyrone man, **Robert John Welch**. So much was written of him at his death, little over a year ago, in the "Irish Naturalists' Journal" and elsewhere, that I need not dwell upon his unique personality. We will not soon forget his breezy presence at our winter meetings, his schoolboyish pranks at our summer excursions, and at all times his intensely keen sense of humour, which sometimes exasperated us, but generally disarmed criticism.

Reverend Canon Henry William Lett succeeded Welch in 1912-13. He was a Hillsborough man, born in 1836, and did not join the Club until middle age, but he made up for lost time by the enthusiastic vigour with which he pursued his researches, especially as regards mosses. His most important publication was a "Census Report on the Mosses of Ireland," published by the Royal Irish Academy in 1915. He was also interested in archæological research. He collaborated with Colonel Berry in an exhaustive survey of the "Black Pig's Dyke" in 1896 or 1897. Sometimes, in his botanical work, he lacked caution in dealing with



Prof. James Thomson, D.Sc., LL.D., F.R.S.



Miss Sydney M. Thompson
(Madame Christen).

critical plants, but, on the whole, he did good work as a keen and observant field naturalist. **R. L. Praeger** came next, and was followed (1916-17) by **A. R. Dwerryhouse**, Lecturer on Geology at Queen's. His book entitled, "The Earth and its Story," written while he was in Belfast, is an admirable introduction to the study of Geology. Then came **A. M'I. Cleland** for a couple of years, succeeded by **Stephen Allen Bennett**, Science Master at Campbell College (1898-1926), botanist, geologist, and archæologist, whose recent death (1934) we all deplore. He received the Club Medal in 1931. His successors were **Reverend W. R. Megaw**, **J. A. S. Stendall**, **James Orr**, **W. M. Crawford**, **R. S. Lepper**, **D. J. Carpenter**, **Miss W. J. Sayers**, **Captain Chase**, **Charles E. Kerr**, **Professor Charlesworth**, **Dr. Gregg Wilson**, **C. R. Nodder**, **Joseph Skillen**, and **A. H. Davison**.



But there have been noteworthy men and women on our roll of members who never reached the Chair. I may mention a few.

Joseph Wright, a Cork man and a member of the Society of Friends. When he came to Belfast in 1868, to take up a position in Forster Green's grocery establishment, he was already a member of the Geological Society of London, and he had made a collection of Carboniferous fossils from the neighbourhood of Cork which is now in the British Museum. On settling in Belfast, he immediately joined the Club and entered on an intensive study of foraminifera, a subject on which he eventually became an authority. He died in 1923. Dr. Praeger, in his recently-published book—"The Way That I Went"—relates a characteristic anecdote of Mr. Wright:—

"A more kindly enthusiast than Joseph Wright," he writes, "never lived. I remember one occasion on which his self-restraint and benevolence were put to a severe test. In a dredging sent to him from—I forget where—he discovered a single specimen of remarkable novelty—the type of a new genus of Foraminifera. He mounted it temporarily on a slide—neglecting to put on a protective cover-glass, for he was a careless manipulator—and at a conversazione of the Belfast Naturalists' Field Club held immediately afterwards, he showed it to J. H. Davies and others. Davies was a fellow-Quaker, an ardent bryologist, a man of singular courtesy, a neat and skilful microscopical expert. Seeing that the slide was dusty, and not noticing the absence of the

usual cover-glass, Davies leisurely produced a silk pocket-handkerchief and, before the horrified eyes of the owner, in a moment ground the specimen to powder!—But Wright's self-restraint stood even that test. He gasped, and his face went white; but he uttered no word of reproach. 'It couldn't be helped'—and that was an end of it."

Hugh Lamont Orr, father of our esteemed fellow-member, James Orr, was a fine all-round naturalist, with a special interest in hymenoptera. He was one of the most active workers in the Club, and for many years a useful and popular member of Committee. He devoted considerable attention to conchology and entomology, and for some years before his death, in 1913, he was engaged on a List of the Wild Bees and Wasps of the North-East of Ireland. He was an expert in the mounting of specimens, and was always ready to give advice and practical assistance to young naturalists.

Robert Bell joined the Club in 1893. He died on 12th April, 1934. During those forty years he did more than any other man of his time for the advancement of scientific and archæological knowledge in the North of Ireland. First and foremost, he was a geologist, but he was also a keen archæologist. At a Club meeting in 1921, he mentioned some of his geological discoveries. He said that in 1902 he found in Sluggan Bog a jelly-like mass which puzzled him. It turned out to be "dopplerite," a mineral new to the British Isles. In 1908 he found "beekite" on certain fossils from the Chloritic Sands of the Upper Cretaceous. In 1919 he found at Cat-cairn, Ligoniel, a mineral new to Ireland, a zeolite named "gyrolite." Another mineral, new to Ireland, which he found in the basalt of Killyleagh, was "phacolite." In July, 1921, he discovered in the lignite deposits of Lough Neagh a trunk of lignite partly silicified, which he considered proof that the silicified wood found round Lough Neagh came from the lignite beds. In archæology he had accumulated a magnificent collection of flint implements. He was a great favourite of his fellow-members. His innate kindness and courtesy endeared him to all with whom he came into contact.

Balfour Browne was Lecturer on Botany at Queen's, under the late Professor Gwynne-Vaughan (whose widow is now Professor of Botany in London University). Mr. Browne left Belfast to become Pro-

fessor of Zoology at the Imperial Institute, London, and since his retirement, about a couple of years ago, he has devoted himself to his favourite study—water beetles.

George Donaldson was one of the first members of the Club to take a scientific interest in the study of land and fresh-water mollusca. He afterwards became an authority on local lepidoptera. He died on 6th March, 1925, the last survivor of the original members of the Club.

Miss Sydney Mary Thompson (afterwards Madame Christen), a niece of William Thompson, whose "Natural History of Ireland" I have mentioned, became a member in 1891. She has been described as "an accomplished artist, a keen botanist, and a still keener geologist, and never so happy as when surrounded by workers whom she could help and encourage." She died in Scotland in 1923.

Nathaniel Carrothers, who was awarded the Club Medal in 1925, had been a member from 1892. He became a member of Committee in 1906, and served on it almost continuously for nearly twenty years. His work was chiefly in connection with the Botanical Section, of which he was several times Secretary, and to which he contributed many Papers and Notes. In botanical matters his decision was regarded as final. He was always ready to place his profound knowledge of his subject and his ripe experience at the service of his fellow-members.

W. J. C. Tomlinson joined the Club in 1901. He served on the Committee frequently, and was Joint-Secretary, with W. H. Gallway, in 1906-7. His papers, read to the Club, included "The Evolution of the Mourne Mountains," "Some Recent Records of our Local Flora," "Connemara Plants," "Geological Aspects of Coast Erosion," "Local Plant Gleanings," "Plant Communities." He died on 29th June, 1921. I think he was employed in the engineering department of the Northern Counties Railway.

Sylvanus Weir, a corn-miller by trade, was a most proficient botanist. He had only one effective eye, but in practical field work he was far more efficient than most people with normal sight. For many years he acted as Club Librarian, and in connection with the Second Supplement to the "Flora," published in 1923, the

labour of preparing the MS. for the Press from the material supplied by his colleagues and himself fell entirely on him. He died within a week of the completion of the task.

I may say, in passing, that in the preparation of the new edition of the "Flora," which the Club is issuing under the general editorship of Dr. Praeger, invaluable assistance is being given by Mr. Megaw, who has undertaken the Section dealing with mosses and hepatics, and by Miss Sayers, who has been indefatigable in the laborious work of checking habitats.

Thomas Edens Osborne, gramophone merchant, was Treasurer from 1921-2 till 1923-4. Many of us have pleasant memories of Tom Osborne, "a fellow of infinite jest." His quips and puns still linger in our memories.



In 1874, on the occasion of the meeting of the British Association in Belfast, the Club issued a "**Guide to Belfast and the Adjacent Counties.**" I think I am correct in stating that it was the first time a town had provided a book of this kind as part of its scheme of hospitality for members of the Association. An admirable little book it was, full of useful topographical and scientific information and tastefully printed and bound by Marcus Ward & Co. It was written by the following members of the Club—John Anderson, William Gray, Rev. Edmund M'Clure, Rev. William M'Ilwaine, Rev. George Robinson, Hugh Robinson, S. A. Stewart, and William Swanston.

In 1902, when the British Association again met in Belfast, the Club again produced a "Guide" for its use.



In 1913 the Club made a brief incursion into the field of journalism with the "**B.N.F.C. Quarterly Journal,**" devoted to the furtherance of the open-air study of natural history in the north-east of Ireland. The first four numbers (January to October, 1913) were edited by Arthur Stelfox, and the next four (January to October, 1914) by the Committee of the Junior Section of the Club. Publication was not continued.

Mention of the **Junior Section** reminds me that the credit for its inception is due to Mr. Stendall. Within

a year of his election to membership—to be precise, at the Annual Meeting on 28th April, 1911—he brought forward a scheme for encouraging and training boys and girls interested in natural history, and, in spite of considerable opposition he carried his project to a successful issue. Entirely on Mr. Stendall's initiative, the Junior Section was established on 16th June, 1911. He acted as its Secretary for a year or two, to give it a good start, and since then it has grown enormously in usefulness as well as in numbers. In this connection Mr. Stendall did a good day's work for the Club.

In 1895, a magazine on a wider basis than the "B.N.F.C. Quarterly Journal" was established at the suggestion and under the auspices of the Club—"The Irish Naturalists' Journal." It was meant to take the place of "The Irish Naturalist," then lately defunct, but it has developed into something much more important than that little magazine. It began as the official organ of the Club and *four* other scientific societies; it now represents *fourteen*. Mr. Stendall has been Editor-in-chief from the start, and he is ably assisted by a staff of capable Sectional Editors.

Every member of the Club should be a subscriber.



One of the most important pieces of work undertaken by the Club was the examination, in 1889, by a Committee which it appointed, of the 25-foot **Raised Beach at Larne**, where the earliest worked flints of Ireland have been found. The results of the investigation of the relation between the distribution of the flints and the stratification of the gravels will be found in an exhaustive Report in the *Proceedings* for 1889-90; and the whole story of the Larne gravels, told by W. J. Knowles, of Ballymena, in an admirable article in the "Journal of the Royal Anthropological Society" for January, 1914, was afterward reprinted in pamphlet form under the title of "The Antiquity of Man in Ireland."



In 1931, the Club appointed a **Survey of Antiquities Committee**, with Miss Gaffikin as Secretary, to collect all available information, topographical and bibliographical, regarding the antiquities of Northern Ireland. This work is being carried on; the informa-

tion received is classified, indexed, and made easily accessible to members and others; and, in time, it should form a valuable record.

More than sixty years ago, it is interesting to note, the Club encouraged research of a similar kind. In 1870, the prehistoric remains at Moyaver, near Armoy, were reported on by a Committee of the Club, and the "plan" which this Committee prepared (see the reproduction in the *Proceedings*) will compare favourably with similar productions of to-day. And in this same year (1870) the Club began a **pictorial record** of our prehistoric and later antiquities. The Committee recommended that members and friends of the Club should embrace every opportunity to multiply records of this description—photographs and drawings, to be permanently preserved in the **Club's Portfolio**. We find frequent mention of this Portfolio subsequently. **What has become of it?**

In 1903, when the **Ulster Fisheries and Biological Association** was established for the study of marine zoology, several of our members took an active part in its researches, notably Dr. Gregg Wilson, William Swanston and W. H. Gallway.

The institution of a **Medal**, suggested by Mr. Stendall in his Presidential Address in 1923, was a notable event in the annals of the Club. It is awarded from time to time "for work in Ireland in connection with the Club's activities." For so far the Club Medallists have been twelve in number:—

1923—William Swanston.	1931—S. A. Bennett.
1924—Nevin H. Foster.	1932—J. A. S. Stendall.
1925—Nathaniel Carrothers.	1933—A. M'I. Cleland.
1926—Robert Bell.	1934—Dr. Gregg Wilson.
1927—R. L. Praeger.	1936—Prof. Charlesworth.
1928—Robert J. Welch.	1937—Rev. W. R. Megaw.

—a dozen men who were, surely, well worthy of the highest honour the Club could bestow on them. Alas! six of them have already been taken from us.



In 1923, the **Route Naturalists' Field Club** was established, largely through the instrumentality of the Hon. Helen Macnaughten and the Rev. E. M. Gumley, at that time Rector of Ballintoy. Subsequently Clubs

were organised at Londonderry, Cookstown, Limavady, and Omagh, and each of them, at its own request, was affiliated to our Club. We encourage them by supplying lecturers for some of their winter meetings, and by holding joint field meetings with them in summer.



The excursions of the Club have not been without their **humorous incidents**. Everyone has heard the story of the pompous member who said to a labourer digging in a field, "My good man, do you know of any objects of botanical, geological, or archæological interest in this neighbourhood?" The rustic looked at him in silence for a moment, then said, "Sowl, *you're* a lad!" spat on his hands, and went on with his digging.

On an excursion to Glendun, the members of the party collected a good number of ferns, *Lastrea Oreopteris* being found in great profusion. Several dozen plants of it were carried off, to the astonishment of a native, who exclaimed, "I'll gie a poun' tae ony wan who'll redd thon field o' the dirty bracken!"

In 1871, on a visit to south Donegal, the driver of the conveyance professed to know something of geometry, and on one of the party asking him if he had got over "the ass's bridge" (the 5th proposition of Euclid), he replied, "No, but a druv a pair of bays over Connolly's bridge!"

On one occasion a party of members dismounted from their conveyance near a small village in a remote part of the country. As customary, they set about their respective hobbies, some gathering wild flowers and plants, some chipping off chunks of rock, some turning over stones in search of beetles, and probably one or two, with nets, rushing madly after butterflies. Of course, the curiosity of the villagers was aroused, and an old woman was overheard saying to her neighbour, "I wonder who they are?" "Och! they're from an asylum," was the reply, "and," pointing to the conductor, "thon wan's the keeper!"



Naturally, as the name of the Club suggests, **field work** forms a large part of its activities. From April to September, excursions are held to places of interest to the several Sections. Of course, the proportion of

expert workers in the Club is small compared with the number of members who are merely interested, but this is, and always will be, the case in Associations such as ours. All honour to those who have attained, or are endeavouring to attain, to some degree of proficiency in a branch of natural history or in archæology! But, fortunately, the enjoyment of Nature does not mainly depend upon technical knowledge, though the acquirement of technical knowledge is well worth while: we can take pleasure in the mountains without being able to name their constituent rocks, and in the verdant fields without knowing the botanical names of the flowers and plants they nourish.

The province of the Club, as I see it, is to foster a love of Nature in men and women who are immersed in the cares and responsibilities of the ordinary avocations of the workaday world. In this way, the Club has been and is a great source of mental stimulus and refreshment. It welcomes to its ranks representatives of all classes, all creeds, all shades of political opinion, and unites them in a common brotherhood. So long as it affords to such people a common meeting-place where, in the study of Nature and of the records of Man, they can cultivate a spirit of mutual helpfulness and forbearance and good fellowship, so long will the Club flourish.

The blocks for the illustrations have been kindly lent by the Belfast Municipal Museum and Art Gallery.

APPENDIX.

Chairmen.

1863-64	—	John Grainger, M.A.
1864-65	}	George C. Hyndman.
&		
1865-66	}	Professor James Thomson, D.Sc., LL.D., F.R.S.
1866-67		
to		
1868-69	}	

Presidents.

1869-70	}	Professor James Thomson.
to		
1872-73	}	
1873-74	—	John Anderson, F.G.S., J.P.
1874-75	}	Rev. William M'Ilwaine, D.D.
to		
1878-79	}	
1879-80	}	William Gray, M.R.I.A.
&		
1880-81	}	
1881-82	—	Robert Young, C.E.
1882-83	—	Lieut.-General Smythe, M.R.I.A.
1883-84	}	William H. Patterson, M.R.I.A.
&		
1884-85	}	
1885-86	}	Rev. Canon John Grainger, D.D., M.R.I.A.
&		
1886-87	}	
1887-88	}	Hugh Robinson, M.R.I.A.
&		
1888-89	}	
1889-90	}	William Gray, M.R.I.A.
&		
1890-91	}	
1891-92	}	John Vinycomb, M.R.I.A., F.R.S.A.I.
&		
1892-93	}	
1893-94	—	William Swanston, F.G.S.
1894-95	}	F. W. Lockwood, C.E.
&		
1895-96	}	
1896-97	}	Lavens M. Ewart, J.P., M.R.I.A.
&		
1897-98	}	
1898-99	}	Rev. C. H. Waddell, B.D.
&		
1899-1900	}	
1900-01	}	Francis Joseph Bigger, M.R.I.A.
to		
1902-03		

- 1903-04 }
 & } W. J. Fennell, M.R.I.A.I.
 1904-05 }
 1905-06 }
 & } W. H. Phillips.
 1906-07 }
 1907-08 }
 & } Robert Patterson, M.R.I.A.
 1908-09 }
 1909-10 — Nevin H. Foster, F.L.S., M.R.I.A., M.B.O.U.
 1910-11 }
 & } Robert J. Welch, M.R.I.A.
 1911-12 }
 1912-13 }
 & } Rev. Canon H. W. Lett, M.R.I.A.
 1913-14 }
 1914-15 }
 & } Robert Lloyd Praeger, M.R.I.A.
 1915-16 }
 1916-17 }
 & } A. R. Dwerryhouse, D.Sc., F.G.S., M.R.I.A.
 1917-18 }
 1918-19 }
 & } A. M'I. Cleland.
 1919-20 }
 1920-21 }
 & } S. A. Bennett, M.A., B.Sc.
 1921-22 }
 1922-23 — Rev. W. R. Megaw, B.A., M.R.I.A.
 1923-24 }
 & } J. A. S. Stendall, M.R.I.A., M.B.O.U.
 1924-25 }
 1925-26 — James Orr, M.B.O.U.
 1926-27 — W. M. Crawford, B.A., F.R.E.S., F.Z.S.
 1927-28 — Robert S. Lepper, M.A., F.R. Hist. S.
 1928-29 — D. J. Carpenter, A.R.C.Sc.L.
 1929-30 — Miss W. J. Sayers, B.A.
 1930-31 — Capt. C. D. Chase, M.C., M.A.
 1931-32 — Charles E. Kerr, B.A.
 1932-33 — Prof. J. K. Charlesworth, D.Sc., F.G.S., M.R.I.A.
 1933-34 — Gregg Wilson, O.B.E., M.A., D.Sc., M.R.I.A.
 1934-35 — C. R. Nodder, M.A.
 1935-36 — Joseph Skillen.
 1936-37 — A. H. Davison, F.R.S.A.I.
 1937-38 — A. Albert Campbell, F.R.S.A.I.

Honorary Secretaries.

- 1863-64 — Ralph Tate and W. T. Chew.
 1864-65 — William H. Patterson and Charles H. Brett.

- 1865-66 }
to } William H. Ferguson and William Gray.
1868-69 }
- 1869-70 }
to } William Gray and Hugh Robinson.
1874-75 }
- 1875-76 }
to } Hugh Robinson and William Swanston.
1879-80 }
- 1880-81 }
to } William Swanston and F. W. Lockwood.
1889-90 }
- 1890-91 — F. W. Lockwood and R. L. Praeger.
- 1891-92 }
& } R. L. Praeger and F. J. Bigger.
1892-93 }
- 1893-94 }
& } F. J. Bigger.
1894-95 }
- 1895-96 }
& } F. J. Bigger and Alex. G. Wilson.
1896-97 }
- 1897-98 — F. J. Bigger and J. St. J. Phillips.
1898-99 — J. St. J. Phillips and W. D. Donnan.
- 1899-1900 }
& } W. D. Donnan and William Gray.
1900-01 }
- 1901-02 }
& } J. St. J. Phillips and Robert Patterson.
1902-03 }
- 1903-04 — Robert Patterson and Nevin H. Foster.
1904-05 — Nevin H. Foster and James Orr.
1905-06 — George C. Gough and George Donaldson.
1906-07 — W. H. Gallway and W. J. C. Tomlinson.
1907-08 — W. H. Gallway.
1908-09 — R. J. Welch and Miss Jean Agnew.
- 1909-10 }
& } Miss Jean Agnew and Arthur W. Stelfox.
1910-11 }
- 1911-12 — A. W. Stelfox.
- 1912-13 }
& } A. W. Stelfox and Miss Margarita D. Mitchell.
1913-14 }
- 1914-15 }
& }
1915-16 }
- 1916-17 }
to } Miss M. W. Rea and J. K. Charlesworth.
1918-19 }

- 1919-20 — J. A. S. Stendall and A. M'I. Cleland.
 1920-21 — A. M'I. Cleland and Mrs. G. G. Gibson.
 1921-22 }
 & } A. M'I. Cleland.
 1922-23 }
 1923-24 }
 to } A. Albert Campbell and Dr. T. M. Deans.
 1925-26 }
 1926-27 — A. H. Davison and R. J. Welch.
 1927-28 }
 & } E. Norman Carrothers and A. E. Muskett.
 1928-29 }
 1929-30 }
 to } Joseph Skillen.
 1934-35 }
 1935-36 — W. G. R. Skillen and William Sweeney.
 1936-37 }
 & } Joseph Skillen and W. G. R. Skillen.
 1937-38 }

Honorary Treasurers.

- 1863-64 }
 to } W. H. Phillips.
 1869-70 }
 1870-71 }
 to } Greer Malcomson.
 1879-80 }
 1880-81 }
 to } Joseph Wright.
 1887-88 }
 1888-89 }
 to } S. A. Stewart.
 1890-91 }
 1891-92 }
 to } W. H. Phillips.
 1912-13 }
 1913-14 }
 to } Nevin H. Foster.
 1916-17 }
 1917-18 }
 to } S. M. Macoun.
 1920-21 }
 1921-22 }
 to } T. E. Osborne.
 1924-25 }
 1925-26 }
 to } A. H. Davison.
 1933-34 }
 1934-35 }
 to } Robert G. Henderson. F.C.A.
 1937-38 }

PRESENTED

9 DEC 1938



