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SHORT NOTES.

A WANDERING LICHEN.—At the meeting of the Essex Field Club on 28th November, 1914, "Mr. R. Paulson exhibited specimens of the lichen *Parmelia revoluta* var. *concentrica* Cromb., which he called a wandering lichen because it is found on the grass quite unattached to any substratum, and is liable to be moved about by the wind when it blows with any force. This variety of *P. revoluta* was first found by Sir William Trevelyan in the autumn of 1855 on Melbury Hill near Shaftesbury, Devon, and at that time a suggestion was made that certain Parmelias were blown from trees on to the most exposed part of the hill, and that there they continued to grow, though liable to be turned over and blown about by the wind. No recent records of the finding of the plant on Melbury Hill have been made. In 1904 D. J. Scourfield discovered this variety on the downs near Seaford, Sussex, and sent it to friends for the purpose of identification. No attempt appears to have been made at that time to find out more about its peculiar habit. The plant is now fairly abundant on a small area of down country near Seaford. Search has been made this year—1914—by Somerville Hastings and myself of the downs between Eastbourne and Seaford, but we have failed to find it anywhere but at the spot already indicated. The plant readily breaks up in wet weather, so that pieces of all sizes get scattered about on the grass. The larger pieces are mostly more or less spherical in shape. The outer surface is rough owing to the manner in which the extremities of the branches of the thallus are rolled back, thus producing small points. The outside of a sphere is greenish grey, while the inner under surface of the thallus is almost black. The young branches grow over and cover the older ones, so that when cut through the plant exhibits a series of concentric layers. There are no trees less than three quarters of a mile from the Seaford station for this plant, and trees are few and far between on this portion of the downs. On none of the trees in the Seaford area was *Parmelia revoluta* found. After careful search three flints were seen on which the lichen was growing, and there is no doubt whatever that some of the specimens originated on the flints of the chalk. The plants are fixed by the rhizinae very loosely and easily break off, especially in wet weather. After breaking from the stone the lichen gets constantly blown over and over and gradually assumes the spherical form. There is a point that still needs explanation; it is this: although small portions of the plant are blown about from time to time, the area on which it is found at Seaford is very small. It was the same case with the Melbury plants. The exhibit included some excellent photographic lantern slides by Dr. Somerville Hastings."—*Essex Naturalist*, xviii. 25.

AZOLLA IN THE LEA VALLEY.—Mr. A. W. Graveson having told me that *Azolla* occurred at Dobbs' Weir, on the Lea Navigation near Broxbourne, it seemed desirable to ascertain its range