LICHENOLOGY, A NEW DEPARTURE.

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The question of adding Lichenology to our field of activity has been mooted several times, and after a short discussion at a recent meeting of members, it was decided that there was good reason for extending and enriching the scope of our work by associating the study of lichens with that of mycology.

There are numbers of 'fungi-lichens' or 'lichen-fungi' just on the border-line between saprophytism and symbiosis with algae, and much careful and exact work is waiting to be done on these species out in the field and in the laboratory, by some one acquainted with both fungi and lichens. There is also a very large flora of the smaller fungi parasitic on lichen thalli which will mainly be discovered and recognized by the student of lichens. A descriptive list of these was recently published in the *Bulletin de la Société Mycologique de France* Vols. xxviii.—xxx (1912-14) by the deeply lamented Abbé Vouaux, who was wantonly done to death by the Germans in the early stages of the war.

The great bar to the study of lichenology in our country has been the lack of suitable text-books, that lack will be, I hope, made good very soon. A general text-book on Lichenology is ready and awaits publication. The Monograph of British Lichens is now completed and a guide-book somewhat on the lines of Hayward's pocket flora is in an advanced stage of preparation. The two latter works are being published by the Trustees of the British Museum. It is earnestly hoped that these books will appeal to natural history students and will make the science easier and more attractive. It will be possible to appoint in the early future a member of our Society who will act as general referee for lichens.