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Review: Vegetation of Blakeney Point

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FIG. 1. Sea front of the Beacon Hills on the Headland. *Psamma* dunes of various ages. The picture shows the principal breeding ground of the terns.

FIG. 2. Edge of main beach opposite the Marams. Fans of shingle are encroaching on the saltings. The bushes on the beach are *Suaeda fruticosa*.

OLIVER AND SALISBURY—TOPOGRAPHY AND VEGETATION OF
BLAKENEY POINT (see p. 297).

NOTICES OF WORK ON BRITISH VEGETATION

VEGETATION OF BLAKENEY POINT

Oliver, F. W., and Salisbury, E. J. "Topography and vegetation of Blakeney Point, Norfolk." London (F. T. Smith, Botany Department, University College, Gower Street), 1913; 58 pages, 1 double colotype plate, 9 text-figures; price 1s. 6d., post free.

Everyone interested in the progress of ecology will welcome this reprint in handy book form of a paper which appeared originally in the Transactions of the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society, vol. 9, 1913, giving a concise account of the constitution and distribution of the plant populations of the famous Nature Reserve at Blakeney Point. This book forms both a supplement and an introduction to the various memoirs which have been published already on the topography and vegetation of what has become classic ground owing to the investigations of Prof. Oliver and his co-workers since 1910, and since these investigations are to be prosecuted on a larger and more detailed scale in the future, the work will serve as a valuable record of the earlier results obtained by the floristic section of the Blakeney party.

The major part of the book is occupied by Dr Salisbury's account of the vegetation, but Prof. Oliver gives a general introductory account (pp. 2—17) of the chief topographical features of the area as a whole, with special reference to the distinctive characters of the various types of habitat. After a purely topographical summary of the main features of the Point, Prof. Oliver deals with the developmental aspects of the various kinds of habitat which present series the individual members of which are arranged in sequence of age so that it is possible to follow each type in proper historical order through all the stages of its physical establishment, colonisation by plants, and the successions which these undergo. As is pointed out, it is hardly possible to imagine any area that could be better adapted to such a purpose. The striking changes in the distribution of shingle and sand during recent years are described and illustrated, and the possible future changes are considered in the light of those which have already taken place or which are at present in progress.

The second part of the work contains a preliminary account of the flora of the area and is divided into sections dealing with the main shingle bank, the lateral hooks, the dune system, the salt marshes, and the rare or local species. In connexion with each habitat the author indicates the part played by the characteristic species and the relation of these to the habitat factors, besides giving lists of the species with many interesting notes on their zonation, habits, etc. Obviously, the members of the "Floristic Section" of the Blakeney party, led by Dr Salisbury under Prof. Oliver's generalship, take a wide and generous view of the scope of "floristic" botany, and the general account of the vegetation here given is absolutely essential to those interested in the remarkable experiment in "intensive ecology" which is now being carried out at Blakeney Point.

By kind permission of the authors we are able to reproduce, in Plate 24, two of the photographic illustrations given in this useful handbook.

SAND-DUNES IN SOUTHWESTERN ANGLESEY

Wortham, W. H. "Some features of the sand-dunes in the southwestern corner of Anglesey." *British Assoc. Reports*, 1913.

The sand-dunes in the S.W. corner of Anglesey form a spit about 5 miles in area, bounded to N.W. and to S.E. by river estuary and strait respectively, and to the S.W. by open sea; the sand is aggregated about a high spit of schistose rock, often over 100 feet high, which forms a backbone running from S.W. to N.E.; parts of it are uncovered by sand. The fixed dune

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