

On Sunday, March 17th, an excursion was made to the Narrow Neck reef.

On arriving the tide was high so an examination was first made of the drift weed, which was found to consist mainly of "large browns", species of *Carpophyllum*, *Sargassum*, *Ecklonia*, *Dictyota*, etc. We also found beautiful lace-like examples of the red *Placodium* and *Ceramium*.

While the tide still covered the reef, examination was made of the zones of minute seaweeds above high water mark. These form bands of different colours varying from green to black. Prof. Chapman, who has made a study of similar zones in other parts of the world, explained that they were composed of minute green algae such as *Rhizoclonium* and blue green algae, only to be distinguished by the aid of the microscope. Professor Chapman stated that two honours students in Botany were at present engaged in investigating these zones locally, one working on the East Coast and one on the West. We hope to hear something of interest from them later!

At low tide, members repaired to the main reef, which provided a rich collection of species,--the larger greens-- species of *Codium*, *Caulerpa*, etc., many browns and some reds. At the end of the reef was noted a fine growth of *Pterocladia lucida*, important for agar manufacture. Dr. Chapman mentioned how in different parts of the empire the gelatine producing seaweeds, *Gracilaria*, *Chondrus*, *Gigartina*, etc. were being exploited, and important new uses being found for seaweed products generally.

In happy contrast to previous seaweed excursions, the weather was delightful, and members spent a very pleasant, as well as a very instructive day.

The excursion was led by Dr. Chapman. Assistance in the identification of local species was given by Miss Crookes and Miss Molesworth.

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