
Ecological Excursion

THE party gathered at the head of Glencree Valley and set out in rather threatening weather. The first stop was at Ballyreagh property of Glencree forest where Mr. McEvoy gave a *resumé* of the ecology of the area, and traced with the aid of maps its ecological history over the past 120 years and the striking reversion of agricultural land to bracken. Assessment figures indicating timber volumes which have been obtained from bracken areas were supplied by Mr. G. Gallagher. The party then moved into the forest to examine stands growing on what was once typical bracken slope.

The group then moved on to Kippure mountain where, by kind permission of the Wicklow County Manager, entry was allowed onto the new "Television" road leading to the summit. A fine example of *Tricophorum* bog was observed under typical climatic conditions—strong wind and driving rain and fog, at 2,000 ft. elevation, and the characteristic growth of *Rhacomitrium* mosses on these very exposed bog edges was seen. The awesome journey was continued to the summit (2,500 ft.) and satisfactory parking space was found for all cars on the denuded granite gravel of the mountain top. Here was seen very clearly the ravages of the elements and the resulting peat erosion where isolated patches of *Calluna* cling precariously to hummocks of peat, and the dwarf cushions of *Agrostis* and sorrel growing on the bare granite material.

Due to an unfortunate deterioration of the weather our next stop had to be cut short and a proposed visit to an *Eriophorum* moor, and a *Calluna-Molinia* moor (now planted with Sitka spruce and contorta pine) had to be abandoned.

The last stop was made at the junction of granite and glacial drift at Killakee (1,250 ft.).

The day was wound up with a pleasant meal well sheltered from the elements at Miss Fox's. The President proposed a vote of thanks.

G.J.G.