

AYLMER. The district around Queen's Park, Aylmer, was the locality chosen for the excursion of the club, held Saturday afternoon, May 31st. It was necessary to change the place of meeting from Ironsides, owing to wrong information having been received about the train service; this caused several to miss the outing. The excursionists left the electric railway landing about 3.30, and after walking through the park, along the railway track and through woods for an hour and a half, they took possession of one of the vacant cottages along the lake to discuss the finds of the day. The specimens most frequently encountered, and one which nature seems to have been making a specialty of for two years, was the forest tent caterpillar. These creatures were everywhere, on leaves, in the grass, on the railroad rails, as well, in fact, as on most of the people, but the other works of nature more than compensated.

Mr. L. H. Newman, president of the club, presided, and also presented the botanical specimens. The district is not especially rich in wild flowers, although a fair number of specimens were collected. A few lady's slippers were found, a number of violet species, the beach pea, Bishop's cap, lousewort, shepherd's purse, pennywort and the fruit of poison ivy.

A very interesting talk on the wild fruits of the district was given by Mr. W. T. Macoun, Dominion Horticulturist. Mention was made that in this district there is only one native species of wild plum, the Canada plum, which is hardy, but for many years has not produced fruit because of the severe attacks of a fungus disease. Some transplanted trees, grown under good orchard culture, are now producing paying crops. This is a striking illustration of the benefits of spraying for the prevention of disease in fruit trees. The native varieties of cherries here are the choke, pin and black. A specimen of the native prickly gooseberry was collected. This species is being used in crossing to breed hardiness into the larger cultivated sorts. Specimens of the common wild black currant and the common wild red raspberry were found. The latter is the species from which most varieties of cultivated red raspberries have been developed. Most of these have been produced in southern districts and are, therefore, not hardy in cold climates. At the Experimental Farm work is being done on the plants found in the locality to produce hardier varieties. Nearly all the cultivated varieties of strawberries too have come from one of the two wild species found here; many of them are tender because grown in a southern district and hardier strains are being developed.

The geology of the district was discussed by Dr. Williams of the Geological Survey. The three distinct types of rock found were blue limestone, sandy shale and sandstone. It was ex-