

EXCURSIONS.

The excursion committee having decided to depart from the usual custom of holding excursions every Saturday afternoon during the spring and early summer, field meetings were arranged for every fortnight, each excursion to be devoted to the study of one particular subject. The first outing was held on Saturday, 29th April, at Mechanicsville, and was occupied with the study of the geology of the district along the bank of the Ottawa River. About a dozen enthusiastic workers attended under the leadership of Dr. P. E. Raymond, Mr. Jas. E. Narraway and Mr. W. A. Johnston. Dr. Raymond gave a general view of the structure of the rocks along the river bank by means of a diagram and pointed out where the most interesting geological features were to be found and the best places for collecting specimens. The party then spent two hours very profitably examining in detail the special features indicated by Dr. Raymond and in collecting specimens of fossils which were very abundant.

On the weathered surface of the Black River limestone many large cephalopods, mostly *Ormoceras tenuifilum* were seen, and Mr. W. A. Johnston was so fortunate as to find a specimen of a very rare cephalopod, *Nanno aulema*, a species previously unknown in the vicinity of Ottawa. One specimen of the coral, *Columnaria halli*, and very numerous brachiopods, were also obtained from the Black River; while the lighter coloured and harder limestones of the Lowville yielded the characteristic coral, *Tetradium cellulosum*, the trilobites, *Bathyurus spiniger* and *extans*, and numerous little black ostracods, or water fleas.

W. J. W.

The second excursion was held on Saturday afternoon, May 13th, to Beaver Meadow, Hull. The party met at 3 o'clock, and two pleasant hours were spent in the woods bordering the meadow. The chief object of the excursion was to observe and study briefly some of the plants of the district. Unfortunately only a small number of members attended the excursion, but those who were present thoroughly enjoyed the outing. Some collections of plants were made for pressing, and many determined by Leaders as the party proceeded from place to place. While no plants of particularly rare occurrence were seen, still a number were found of considerable interest to those present.

The most conspicuous objects seen on the trees (wild cherry) were the webs of the American Tent caterpillar. These larvæ are exceedingly numerous this spring and are doing much