

DISCUSSION.

Mr. J. Ballantyne had listened with much pleasure to the President's concise report of the Club's progress. He particularly agreed with what was said about the advantages of beginners relying on themselves instead of going to the leaders upon every occasion for assistance. He was of the opinion that if the President's suggestions were carried out much better results would be secured. Not only would the individual students find a far greater interest in their work, but they would impart it to others, and thus the influence and utility of the Club would be widened and felt by a larger number.

Mr. Fletcher endorsed what Mr. Ballantyne had said, but thought it possible to carry that spirit too far. There were certain difficulties at the outset in studying any science which, although surmountable by close application, were much more advantageously overcome and valuable time was to be saved by applying for help from those better informed. It must, however, be only for help, not to have the work done for them. He had heard with extreme pleasure of the good work in ornithology which had been done by Mr. Lees. It was remarkable that such results could have been obtained without having recourse to what was the greatest objection to ornithology, the necessity for killing the specimens, particularly in the breeding season. He did not consider that killing insects was such an objection to entomology. The specimens were killed outright very rapidly, and were seldom allowed to escape in a wounded and mutilated condition. Moreover, it was certain that insects had not the higher feelings, as birds have, of affection for their mates and their young, and he considered it pretty well established that they could not feel pain in the same way either. He would be pleased to hear something more from Mr. Lees of the plan he had followed.

Mr. Lees said the plan was very simple, and consisted merely of going to the woods very early in the morning with a good field glass and note-book and sitting quietly watching the birds and making notes on their habits. He could not allow all the credit to be given to himself for the work recorded; an equal amount had been done by his constant companion on these excursions, Mr. Norman Ballantyne.