

collected in the Ottawa district, to furnish lists of plants in their collections, so that every reliable record might be included and due credit be given.

The remainder of the evening was given up to a discussion of forestry methods, which was also introduced by Prof. Macoun. He held that the hope of re-afforestation depends upon following Nature's own method. In Nature, uncovered areas first grow up to small stuff of the poplar type, which after a time is gradually displaced by conifers and other valuable trees. Forestry was astray in its efforts if it did not recognize this principle.

In reply Mr. MacMillan, of the Forestry Dept., agreed that Nature's methods must be studied, but maintained that those are the lines now being followed in tree planting. Tree planting, however, is only a very insignificant part of forestry in a country like Canada. The forestry problem here is such a large one that for the present little can be undertaken beyond studying the conditions with a view to properly husbanding and protecting the existing forests, by scientific lumbering operations and fire protection. Fires are the greatest scourge of the forest, and carelessness and indifference are largely responsible for the loss from this cause. Settlers are willing that they should run their course, so long as their personal property is not endangered. The fire which destroyed Fernie was burning in the woods for a month before that disaster. Vancouver Island will soon be without forests and without vegetation if fires are allowed to burn unchecked, as they were last summer. Mr. MacMillan remarked that there is no timber of export size on the east slopes of the Rockies to-day. Prof. Macoun stated that in 1879 from Mattawa to Winnipeg, and from Kananaskis to Vancouver was continuous forest, where now only isolated patches remain.

The proof sheets of a list of Herbaceous Perennials at the Central Experimental Farm were shown by Mr. W. T. Macoun, and Mr. Eifrig exhibited a number of European plants collected during the past summer.

H. G.

#### AN EARLY BAT.

A specimen of the Brown Bat was captured by Mr. Walter Venner, of Quebec, as it was flying about the corridors of the Parliament Buildings during the evening of February 24th. The warm weather of that or the previous day had probably caused it to leave its winter quarters. This species *Vespertilio fuscus*, Beauv., is common in the vicinity of Ottawa, but the occurrence of an active specimen at this season of the year seems worthy of record.

J. M. MACOUN.