

explained that the rosette arrangement, while not the best, on account of overlapping of the leaves, was, nevertheless, a good one, since the leaves comprising it obtained a large share of sunlight and by the close arrangement held possession of the soil.

Another topic discussed was the relation between the slope of the leaf and the type of root the plant has. In the case of the tap root, which goes deep into the soil, it is an advantage to have the leaves shed the rain toward the main axis; in the case of fibrous root, which spreads out in all directions, it is better to have the water shed out toward the growing tips of the roots. The latter type of root is able to take the water from a larger area than the former. It is manifestly an advantage to have the water shed over this area about the centre of the plant. Of course the main business of a leaf is to place itself in the best possible relation to light, but the above incidental relation—viz., the slope of leaf to type of root—is important also. The plantain was cited as a probable exception by Mr. Attwood. Since the discussion, a number of specimens of the plantain have been examined at the Geological Survey and the roots were found to belong to an intermediate type.

A branch of a cork elm, brought from the Aylmer Road, was exhibited, and elicited the statement from Prof. Macoun that these trees are now curiously confined to fence corners and roadsides. Seeds are blown into these sheltered places where a better chance is given them to survive. This tree is one of the smaller species of elm. It has a beautiful shape but has not such slender, swinging branches as other species, owing to the disposition of cork.

Mr. Whyte referred to an elm about eighteen feet in circumference standing north-east of McKay's Lake, and advised a pilgrimage to so venerable a patriarch of the suburbs.

A discussion on the size of trees brought out the statement that larger trees grow on the western coast of the Dominion than in the east. Thus, in British Columbia there is a species of maple with leaves and top of enormous size. One of the leaves, measured by Mr. Carter, was $19\frac{1}{2}$ inches by 23 inches. The diameter of the top of a tree, measured by Dr. Fletcher, was 200 feet. This large top and leaf is evidence of absence of wind storms which would play havoc with such an immense tree. The