

plums to ameliorate the skin; the breeding of red currants for greater mildness, and black currants for size; the raising of seedlings of the European gooseberry to obtain varieties more immune from disease; and the raising of seedling grapes from the many hybrid forms already in existence.

In the discussion which followed, Mr. Whyte stated it as his belief that the growing of seedlings under very favourable conditions would change, and cause to be perpetuated, the characteristics of a seedling in respect to vigor of plant, size and flavor of fruit, etc. In other words, that after a seed had germinated the merits of that seedling would not necessarily depend on inherited characteristics, but would be largely influenced by the environment up to time of fruiting. A curious freak was shown by Mr. Geo. H. Clark, it being a cane of Cuthbert raspberry which instead of being of the usual shape was quite flattened out, having grown this way.

In order to ensure a record being kept of the meetings of the Botanical Branch, it was decided to recommend a Botanical Associate Editor to the new council of the Club, Mr. W. T. Macoun being nominated for this office.

W. T. M.

CANADIAN SPECIES OF THALICTRUM.—II.

BY EDWARD L. GREENE.

The species discussed in our first paper, namely, *T. alpinum*,* is in many particulars widely different from every other; so very different that no member of any other group leads up to it. The transition to any others is abrupt; therefore it is unimportant what other meadow rue be selected to immediately succeed it in a systematic sequence of the species. It may as well be that other northern type, or aggregation, that passes under the name of *T. dioicum*.

Out of the great diversity of plants so designated in books and herbaria there is not one that can to any certainty, or even with any high probability, be identified with that of Linnæus. There is nothing in the name itself that is indicative. Almost all meadow rues, certainly the greater proportion of the American species, are diœcious. Moreover, the short Linnæus description would be wholly inadequate to the determination of his type, even if the description were not also in two points false for anything that botanists have heretofore called *T. dioicum*; for he says that both the sepals and the filaments of his plant are

* cf. Ott. Nat. xxiii.