

of awns in oats when grown under different conditions was discussed.

L. H. N.

January 4th, 1913, at the home of Mr. A. E. Attwood, Present, in addition to the host, Messrs. Buck, Brown, Malte, Whyte, J. M. Macoun, W. T. Macoun, Newman, Dreher, Blackader, Dymond, Tully and Honeyman. The subject for the evening was the Ecology of the Ottawa Flora, the discussion being opened by Mr. J. M. Macoun, who gave some interesting information. At the outset Mr. Macoun made the announcement that "The Flora of the Ottawa District," originally begun by the late Dr. James Fletcher and completed by Prof. John Macoun, so far as the names and localities were concerned, would soon be ready for publication. In addition to the list of plants there will be a key by which the species can be readily identified. This key, which has been prepared by Dr. Malte, assisted by Mr. Macoun, will apply only to the local flora, and in this respect will be different from all other keys which have been published, and on account of the relatively few plants on the list it should prove a very simple matter to identify a species.

Mr. Macoun said that while the definition of Ecology was sometimes given as "Plants in their Relation to Environment" the proper definition was "Adaptation of Plants to Their Environment."

Plants have been classified from an ecological standpoint according to their environment; such as, those growing entirely under water, those having only their leaves above water and through various other gradations until all the plant except the roots was out of water.

Another group are those plants which grow in very dry soils. In this group is included all those that grow on dry rock as distinguished from those growing in crevices or on loose soil over rock.

Another are those on very saline soil, of which we have none in this district.

The last group includes all plants which are moisture-loving (hygrophytes) during some favourable part of the year, and dry (xerophytes) during the rest of the year; as, deciduous trees and shrubs, deciduous herbaceous plants with underground perennating organs, and annuals. This group was first called mesophytes, but afterwards changed to tropophytes.

Mr. Macoun drew attention to the fact that in these groups the great bulk of our Ottawa Flora is thrown into the last group. One member objected strongly to a classification which included deciduous trees and bulbous plants in the same group.

E. H. B.