

THE PRESIDENT'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

DELIVERED THURSDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 12, 1888.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club.

Though very much averse to taking the responsible position to which you elected me for the second time last March, I cannot but feel proud of the honor conferred upon me when made President of such an active working society of students of nature as the Ottawa Field Naturalist's Club, and am much gratified to be again able to congratulate you upon the general prosperity of the Club, and that in the face of difficulties greater than usual, which will be referred to hereafter.

Though our membership has not been increased so largely as last year, still we have added the respectable number of 19 to our list, and the very gratifying attendance at the general excursions shows that there has been no falling off of interest in the Club work. These excursions were four in number. The first to Kirk's Ferry on June 2nd. This, the largest excursion yet held by the Club, and which promised to be our most successful one, was unfortunately spoiled by the rain, which fell from midday till evening. Many of the party never left the vans, and only a few—the happy possessors of waterproofs—were able to explore the woods in the vicinity of the falls. But very little collecting was done, and an early start was made for home.

On June 23rd we visited the shores of Lake Duchesne, near Aylmer, for the second time, and had a very enjoyable excursion. Though held in the same week as last year, the extreme lateness of the season interfered very much with the expected collections, as plants found in full bloom the previous year were yet only in bud.

On July 2nd we visited Eastman's Springs and the Mer Bleue, probably the most interesting locality to the naturalist visited by the Club. After testing the more or less nasty-tasted water of the different springs, the bog was visited and large collections made of the many interesting and beautiful plants for which it is famous, including the insect-eating sundews, the bearded orchis, the horned bladderwort, and a great profusion of the lovely white fringed orchis, collected by many of our botanists for the first time,