

SUB-EXCURSION TO MCKAY'S LAKE.

This autumn's sub-excursions have been most interesting and enjoyable and the one held on September 26th at McKay's Lake was certainly not an exception. The woods around this charming little sheet of water are beautiful at any time, but the gay colouring of the fall season seemed to lend additional charms. The attendance was not as large as at some former outings, there being only about fifty present, but never has greater interest been shown in the finds of the day.

Strolling slowly along through the woods on the lake side, the whole topic of conversation seemed to be on the different points of interest in nature about them.

Some time was spent at the sand pit, and here Mr. McNeill gave much interesting information concerning the sand deposit and also about the formation of marl found in that locality.

Returning at 4.30 to a pleasant knoll, overlooking the lake, the company listened with much interest and profit to addresses by several of the Leaders.

Mr. Arthur Gibson presided, in the absence of the President, and first called on Mr. W. T. Macoun, who spoke of the various trees met with during the afternoon, making his talk doubly forcible by passing around a small branch of each kind, and explaining the difference between closely related species. This created such an interest that quite a discussion followed.

Mr. McNeill spoke of certain aquatic plants, and of the pleasure to be had from keeping an aquarium. He gave many practical hints of how to manufacture one at a very slight expense. Mention was made that great care should be taken in filling the aquarium, so as to have the right balance of animal and vegetable life, or the consequences would doubtless be discouraging.

Mr. J. W. Gibson corroborated what had been said by Mr. McNeill and affirmed that he had found an aquarium a source of great interest as well as profit. He also spoke of the difference to be found among plants at different elevations.

Mr. H. Groh said a few words about the birds noticed during the afternoon, giving a list of those observed, and Mr. Arthur Gibson showed the very beautiful chrysalis of the Monarch butterfly and described the life-history of the insect. He also told something of the insects that spend the winter in the heads of the common mullein and in the stems of the golden rod.

E. E. C.