

## THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF CANADA.

The **fourteenth** meeting of the **Royal Society of Canada** was held in Ottawa, May 15th, 16th, and 17th, under the presidency of Mr. J. M. Le Moine, of Quebec. The meeting was full of interest. A large attendance of fellows at the various sittings of the different sections for the reading of papers, coupled with an unusually large attendance and increased interest in the public lectures and entertainments, mark this meeting as one of the most successful in the history of the Society.

The four sections of **French Literature**, etc., of **English Literature**, of the **Mathematical, Physical and Chemical Sciences**, of the **Geological and Biological Sciences**, met in the Provincial Normal School. There were **thirty** titles and abstracts of papers to be read before these sections, according to the programme, viz: *six* in section I; *eight* in section II; *nine* in section III; and *seven* in section IV.

Of the papers read, the following fall more or less directly in line with researches carried on by members of the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club, and are here noted:

1. *The Geology of the proposed Ottawa Ship Canal.* By R. W. Ellis, LL.D., and A. E. Barlowe, M.A.

The route of the proposed ship canal, via the Ottawa, the Mattawa and French Rivers, and Lake Nipissing, is of great interest, both from the geological and commercial standpoint. It furnishes a comparatively short waterway between the great lakes and the head of ship navigation on the St. Lawrence, and crosses, for several hundreds of miles, the great series of Laurentian or Archaean rocks, nearly at right angles to their strike. In the eastern portion of this Laurentian complex is included the typical area described by Sir William Logan as the Grenville series, which includes foliated and stratified gneisses, granites, syenites, crystalline limestone, anorthosites, etc. These extend westward along the Ottawa for nearly two hundred miles, while in the western part of the section, these characteristic rocks have given place to a great development of granites and syenites, in places, foliated, but frequently massive. From their characters, as seen both in the field and under the microscope, these latter are clearly intrusive, and in large part are more recent in age than the crystalline limestone and associated gneisses which they have replaced. Areas of Huronian rocks, known as the Hastings series, also occur, while the sedimentary formations from the Potsdam to the Utica, both inclusive, have an extensive development along the lower Ottawa, and occasional small outliers of fossiliferous limestone are seen in the vicinity of Mattawa, and on the islands in the eastern portion of Lake Nipissing. Heavy deposits of sand, gravel and clay also occur at various points along the several river channels, and form an important geological feature.

2. *Note on the occurrence of Primnoa Reseda on the Coast of British Columbia.* By J. F. Whiteaves.

*P. reseda* is a large tree-like Alcyonarian coral, which was known to Pallas and Linnaeus more than a hundred years ago. On the eastern side of the Atlantic its