

EXCURSIONS.

BRITANNIA, May 17th. After a brief address from the President, Mr. Newman, as to plans of excursion, place of meeting for the discussion of specimens collected, etc., the party divided themselves into two groups: botanists and zoologists. The former, with several leaders, went towards Britannia Highlands. The zoologists took the opposite direction, judging the lowlands better suited for the aquatic life which they were seeking.

Notwithstanding the sounds of the woodman's axe and the carpenter's hammer, in clearing for and erecting homes, the denizens of the woods have not yet learned (here at least) to fear the advance of civilization. The squirrels seemed to enjoy the luxury of boarded sidewalks, which form the avenues of the future village.

Not expecting to find many of the early spring flowers, we were surprised to see the trilliums in such profusion, whose beautiful white wax-like petals adorn and beautify any landscape.

The following is a list of the flowers collected: *Trillium grandiflorum*), Jack-in-the-Pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*), Toothwort (*Dentaria diphylla*), Bellwort (*Oakesia sessilifolia*), Ground-nut (*Aralia trifolia*), Sarsaparilla (*Aralia nudicaulis*), Clintonia (*Clintonia borealis*), Squirrel-corn (*Dicentra canadensis*), Starflower (*Grientalis americana*), Mitrewort (*Mitella diphylla*), Goldthread (*Coptis trifolia*), Corydalis (*C. glauca*), Liverwort (*Hepatica triloba*), Twisted-stalk (*Streptopus roseus*), Maianthemum (*M. canadense*), Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*), also four species of violets.

The birds seen or heard were as follows: Swallows, robins, red-and-buff-shouldered black-birds, bronzed grackles, a crow, certain sparrows, and a flicker. A burrow of some mammal, perhaps that of a wood-chuck, was seen. The pools contained numerous insects, such as aquatic beetles and hemipterons, a scarlet-coloured arachnid, and an isopod (*Asellus aquaticus*), besides different kinds of pulmonate water snails, such as *Limnaea stagnalis* and *Planorbis*. An interesting insect found was a specimen of *Meloe*, which is related to the blister beetle of commerce. Facts concerning its structure, such as the rudimentary elytrae etc.; life-history, such as how the adult insect feeds on the leaves of the buttercup; the fate of the young larvæ, which are conveyed by bees to their nests, etc., were stated. A few tadpoles, upon one of which the larva of a neuropterous insect was preying, were shown in a glass jar.

After a most delightful afternoon we returned to the Pavilion, where "Talks" were given by Dr. Blackader, Mr. J. W. Eastham, Mr. A. Halkett, Mr. Newman and others.

A. L. M.