

practically took his audience to a series of excursions about Ottawa and pointed out by means of maps, charts, diagrams, photographs and specimens the most salient and important geological features to be observed and studied.

2. APRIL 17th—"THE STUDY OF BIRDS," by Mr. A. G. Kingston.—The lecturer directed attention to the recognized value of all nature studies in inducing a healthy natural growth in three directions—the memory, the reason, the sentimental faculties. In respect of influence upon the latter especially, he claimed that Field Ornithology was easily first of all branches of Natural History.

The appliances and qualities requisite for the intending student of this subject were then enumerated. The lecturer deprecated the making by the ordinary student of a large collection of bird-skins, but advised that more attention should be paid to the manners and habits of the living bird as seen in the field. For a first season's work he thought it would be wise for a beginner to confine himself entirely to the land birds, of which there were on the Ottawa list, (excluding casual or accidental visitants) about 125 species.

The student having furnished himself with a good descriptive hand-book, should mark therein all species known to occur in this district. Practical instructions were then given for noting the important characters of a bird as they appear to an observer in the field; and a field key to the families was placed upon the black-board, by the use of which in conjunction with the descriptive hand-book the lecturer believed it possible to identify almost any of the land birds of the district. It was then pointed out that identification of species was not to be regarded as an end in itself but only as an opening of acquaintanceship with each bird, to be followed by gaining a knowledge of its habits, song, migration, and many an interesting problem so to be opened up.

Space does not permit the inclusion of the Field Key to the families in this report but it is intended to publish it in the next number of the Naturalist.