

fast approaching the first thing discussed was the contents of the lunch baskets. Under the verdant boughs and in shady nooks of the beautiful and abundant vegetation, all around there could be seen many a group of Naturalists enjoying the mid-day meal in the open air, the blue canopy of a charmingly warm and delightful early September sky overhanging all.

At about one o'clock the different parties began to ascend the hillside, the botanists, geologists and entomologists vying with one another as to who would get to the top first and would obtain most material of interest. Many a group of observant students of nature could be seen halted along the hillside and surrounding the leaders, who there on the spot, would examine and describe the plants or rocks and formations of the locality, and explain the interesting forms and phenomena visible. It was nearly five o'clock before the party had returned and gathered at the School House, where a number of addresses were given, as is the custom on these occasions.

The first to speak was Mr. J. Fletcher on "Insects and Insect Life." There were two kinds of insects noted and described--the *beneficial* and the *noxious* insects. These comprised many species and genera. Mr. Fletcher described many of these and gave ready rules whereby beneficial or noxious insects might be distinguished, pointing out the economic relations and significance of these creatures in the world. He exhibited several kinds of plant-galls and described the insects which caused them, he also spoke of the parasitic and guest insects which are found in large numbers in galls of all kinds. The great value of parasitic insects in the economy of nature was illustrated by an account of the good services performed during the past season in Western Ontario where almost every specimen of the Grape Vine Sphinx and the Tomato Sphinx was found to be parasitised by enormous numbers of a small enemy called *Apanteles congregatus*. No less than 207 of the latter having emerged from a single Caterpillar of the Tomato Sphinx. The egg parasites of insects, *Proctotrypidae*, were also described, and an interesting account was given of the egg-parasite of the too-well known Currant worm, *Nematus ribesii*.

Then followed Mr. R. B. Whyte, leader in Botany. In his usual happy manner he described the plants that were observed and collected