

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

MR. R. B. WHITE.

*(Delivered, 8th Dec., 1887.)**Members of the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club, Ladies and Gentlemen :*

I do not propose to-night to give you an elaborate paper on any special point of Natural History, but only to ask your attention for a short time to a brief address on a subject that should, at least, be interesting to all present: That of the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club present, past and future, what we are doing, what we have done in the past and what I think we ought to aim at doing in the years to come. If you do not agree with my ideas of the work of the Club, I hope you will not scruple to say so, as there will be ample time for the fullest discussion, and on the right settlement of some of the points that I will refer to, the future prosperity and well being of the Club will very materially depend. It is with great pleasure that I can congratulate you on the continued and increasing prosperity of the Club. This is shown not only by the largely increased membership; a larger number having joined our ranks during the past season than during any previous year, but by what is of much more consequence the much greater percentage of the members who have taken an active part in the working of the Club. The fact too is particularly noticeable amongst those lately added to our number. A great encouragement to the council has been the sympathy shown in our efforts by those engaged in the important profession of teaching. These ladies and gentlemen recognizing the advantages offered from an educational point of view, have, many of them, cast in their lot with us, to the mutual benefit of all concerned. Original work has been vigorously prosecuted by the specialists in all the branches, and greater efforts have been made by the council to gain the interest of outsiders. The usual methods of procedure adopted in past years have been continued up to the present time, and the lectures and classes will be held during the present winter as heretofore.