

SUB-EXCURSION.

On Saturday, May 25th, the 5th Sub-excursion of the Club was held at the Experimental Farm. The weather being warm and bright, with a cool breeze blowing, which made walking delightful, there was an attendance of about fifty members and friends of the Club.

The leaders present were: the President, Mr. Wilson, Dr. Sinclair, Dr. Fletcher, Mr. Kingston, Rev. Mr. Eifrig, Mr. Halkett and Mr. Gibson. On reaching the Arboretum, the different parties separated under leaders, to visit the spots of most interest to them. The beautiful lawns and beds of many colored tulips about the Farm grounds were the centre of much admiration. Dr. Fletcher, with a party, studied the different trees, shrubs and botanical plants; while Mr. Eifrig and his followers sought for birds of many species. With the exception of a few hibernating kinds there were not many insects found, owing to the lateness of the season.

At 5 o'clock the members reassembled in a grove of pines and spruces near the centre of the Arboretum, and delightful talks were given by Drs. Fletcher and Sinclair and Rev. Mr. Eifrig.

Dr. Fletcher, in his charming manner, spoke of the different kinds of pines and firs found in Canada, also the imported species used for garden decoration, showing the difference between the pines by the number of their leaves and the nature of their cones. He gave both their common and scientific names, stating how in various provinces of Canada one common name is sometimes applied to different kinds of trees. He gave a piece of useful information in the way to make a camp bed of fir boughs. By putting the flat side of the branches uppermost, and placing all the butt ends of the twigs towards the head, sloping the leaves to the foot, one can procure a comfortable, springy bed. The firs are better for this purpose than the prickly spruces.

He also spoke of the Japanese quince, which is used for decorative purposes, and which grows luxuriantly in the Niagara district; and told how the fruit, which is irregularly conical, enclosing a nut-like kernel, is used as a table dessert in Japan, but has never found favor in this country, although it sometimes fruits well here. It has a strong aroma.

Dr. Sinclair was next called upon and spoke briefly of the artificiality of education, stating that all education was more or less artificial. He pointed out that the members of the Club, by visiting the Experimental Farm, which he called a laboratory, for the study and experiments of different varieties of trees, etc., were given a chance to study the artificial side of Nature in the