

which there was a fine collection. These had been grown in pots, so that each species might be kept separate, and were remarkably vigorous and full of bloom. A table was made ready in the house and twenty-nine pots were brought in from outside, where they had been plunged. A general discussion on violets and, on Dr. Greene's recent discoveries and descriptions of new species, preceded a more critical examination of the plants by Dr. Fletcher and the members present. Prof. Macoun said that it was very important in his opinion that, in describing new species, the new one should be compared with one that was better known, as a mere description was not of much assistance in determining a species.

Dr. Fletcher gave a very interesting address, and he had in the living plants such splendid object lessons that much information was obtained, which was impressed on the minds of those present. He said that, when he began collecting first at Ottawa in 1873, he was puzzled at the different forms of violet, which at that time all went under the name of *Viola cucullata*. He showed a sheet of dried specimens having four of these types which he had called at that time alpha, beta, gamma, delta, to separate them. During recent years greater attention had been given to the study of violets; new species had been made out of these forms and named. He said that, although these new species all had some distinctive characteristics, it was impossible to identify them at all times from one character. There was great variation in growth according to conditions under which the plant was growing; there was also great variation in the colour of the flowers. Violets will make fine flowering plants in one year from seed.

Some of the distinguishing characteristics of a few of the species of violets shown were recorded.

*V. septentrionalis*.—Flowers below the leaves, but prominently in view.

*V. subviscosa*.—Outline of lower petal prominently boat-shaped.

*V. Fletcherii*.—Flowers royal purple, very attractive. New leaves erect, acuminate, ciliate.

*V. Macounii*.—Flowers have a decided pinkish tinge. Petals narrow and all bearded.