

unquestionably added materially to the sum total of our knowledge of local natural history and geology. I do not, however, wish to emphasize the material advantage particularly, as I think we are too apt to view everything in the light of dollars and cents. I believe our chief claim for the support and sympathy of the people of Ottawa rests on the much higher plain of educational work. While collecting information in regard to natural history and geology we keep in view the developing of a love of Nature Study especially among the younger members. It is not the purpose of the Club to make profound scientists of its members, but rather to lead them to observe and take an intelligent interest in the common things about them, thus giving an additional interest to every ramble through field and forest.

The name of the Club suggests its greatest usefulness, that is the field work. We are FIELD-Naturalists and our out-door excursions afford us the opportunity of doing our best work. This part of our work has often been referred to, but it cannot be too frequently reiterated. It is now generally recognized by colleges and educational institutions that the study of Nature from text books alone is useless, and many of them have gone to great expense to fit out laboratories in which the most practical instruction is given by bringing the student and the thing he studies directly together. This is what we do in our field-excursions. Those who join these excursions have an opportunity of studying the objects as they occur in nature and are led by suggestion rather than direct statement to find out all they can about them. The pleasure derived from the study of natural history objects is real and lasting. For instance, the sight of a plant will recall the first time you found it, and the time when book in hand you sat down and studied it till you found out its name, and all you could learn about it. Every season as you see it again it is like meeting an old friend.

Another important benefit the Club offers its members is the stimulus afforded by associating with those engaged in similar work. It requires a great supply of energy, enthusiasm and love for a study to keep on plodding along year after year. We have all seen students start out in the most commendable way and do good work for a short time; then the novelty having worn off