

## MEETINGS OF THE BOTANICAL BRANCH.

Dec. 21st, 1912, at the home of Mr. Geo. H. Clark. The following gentlemen were present: Geo. H. Clark, R. B. Whyte, E. D. Eddy, J. W. Eastham, A. Eastham, H. A. Honeyman, C. J. Tulley, W. Dreher, A. E. Attwood, Dr. M. O. Malte, L. H. Newman, J. J. Carter and H. Groh.

The subject of the evening, which was presented by Dr. M. O. Malte, was as follows: "The nature study of plants in relation to their identification." The speaker showed by means of specimens, that certain plants vary in form to a remarkable extent under different conditions of life. Attention must therefore be paid when identifying plants to the conditions under which the plants are grown, otherwise certain modified specimens of a given species may be regarded as belonging to quite another species. The confusion which the young botanist meets with on account of variations in the post-floral development of certain species was also pointed out and illustrated by specimens of the Ground Cherry (*Physalis grandiflora*), Madwort (*Asperugo procumbens*), Bitter Dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*) and certain species of Rosaceae.

The difficulties associated with the identification of species of the genus *Salix*, (willows) due to variations which appear at different periods of their development were pointed out and illustrated. It was shown to be imperative that species of this genus be studied at different stages throughout the season. Without such a study the student could have little idea of the variations within the species.

From the discussion there emanated the conclusion that a collection of plants should not be restricted to *single individuals* within the species, but rather should include typical variations which arise at different stages of development or under different conditions of life. To get a clear idea of a given species, moreover, the plants must be studied in the field. The facilities for doing this, as provided by the excursions of the club during the spring and early summer, were referred to. The speaker believed, however, that plants should not be pulled, taken to the platform of a railway station—as is often the case—and then studied, but rather should the study be made of the undisturbed specimens in their natural habitat.

The new "Flora" which is being prepared of plants of the Ottawa Valley is likely to materially facilitate the proper study of plant life.

A general discussion followed the presentation of the above paper in which such interesting phenomena as the development