

of the species and unworthy of a varietal name. The antiquity of the species was shown by the discovery by Dr. G. M. Dawson of well preserved specimens in the rocks of the Laramie age in the North-West Territories.

Dr. H. B. Small read an entertaining account of a volume of lectures on botany which he had recently acquired. These lectures were delivered at Harvard University in 1788 by Dr. Benj. Waterhouse and were the first lectures delivered in America upon botany of which we have any record.

Mr. Robert Whyte spoke for some time upon the subject of bog plants, and illustrated his remarks by exhibiting a fine collection of the local species. The various so called insectivorous forms were treated of and the theories as to their powers of digesting food discussed. This address gave rise to much animated and edifying discussion in which many valuable items of information were brought out.

Messrs. Baptie, Harrington, Ballantyne and Fletcher took part in the discussion. The sundews and pitcher plants were discussed and their habits and structure explained.

During the evening the following note by Prof. John Macoun, was read :—

NOTE ON THE POISONOUS PROPERTIES OF THE *AGARICUS RODMANI*.

BY JOHN MACOUN, M.A., F.L.S., F.R.S.C.

During the past autumn many edible mushrooms have been collected in the vicinity of the city, some of which have had doubts thrown upon their value by an unfortunate occurrence which took place early in September.

A lady purchased two lots of mushrooms on the market, one from the stalls and the other from the open market. The latter lot was that from which the lady partook and which resulted in her death.

Late in September Mr. Martin Benson of this city also purchased a lot on the market and when they were being cooked his wife noticed that they had an offensive smell and the family refused to eat them. A few were sent to the writer who advised Mr. Benson not to use them as they were to say the least of it, unpleasant to both taste and smell.