

## THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF CANADA.

The fifteenth meeting of the Royal Society of Canada was held in Ottawa on May 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st of this year, and although somewhat tardy, this brief review of work done, more especially with reference to Natural History and the sciences in general, may not be deemed out of place.

The sessions were held in the Provincial Normal School building on Lisgar street. The evening public meetings were very well attended, but the meetings of the various sections which are also public were not as well attended perhaps as on former occasions. The presiding officer of the year was Dr. A. R. C. Selwyn, late director of the Geological Survey of Canada, who took as the subject of his inaugural address at the evening session of Tuesday, the 19th, "The Origin and Evolution of Archaean Rocks, with remarks and opinions on other Geological subjects; being the results of personal work in both hemispheres from 1845 to 1895." We hope to receive an abstract of this paper for the NATURALIST at a future date.

Amongst contributors of articles are several members of the OTTAWA FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB. The following is a list of some of the papers read by title or *in extenso*, or presented in abstract by the authors or substitutes during the meetings of the sections:

"*A Theory of the Morphology of Stellar Structures.*" By E. C. Jeffrey, B A., communicated, presented and read by Prof. Ramsay Wright.

In this paper the author sought to adduce Ontogenetic and Phylogenetic evidence to show that the cylindrical fibro-vascular complex of the Phanerogamia and certain of the Vascular Cryptogamia, is derived by formation, first, of a channel and then of a tube, from the circumflexion of the oval pithless *stèle*, presented by certain of the lower Pteridophyta.

The tubulation of the *stèle* when complete is generally accompanied by the isolation of a medulla from the external fundamental tissue, and the more or less marked atrophy of the internal bast.