

lower and denser parts of the atmosphere we can understand why stars only sparkle at a low altitude, not much above 30° above the horizon, or about a third of the elevation to the zenith or point overhead. While the twinkling or scintillation is greatest too, near the horizon, and diminishes as the stars get higher and higher, it is not wholly absent at or near the zenith, as is the case with sparkling.

THE OCCURRENCE OF *THYMUS SERPYLLUM* AT
RICHMOND, QUE.

By J. C. SUTHERLAND, B.A.

In August of this year (1908) Mr. G. H. Pierce, C.E., of Beechmore Farm, Richmond, brought me a flower specimen which was entirely new to me. As it was, however, plainly a Labiate, I turned to Gray's Manual to identify it. It seemed to answer the description of *Thymus Serpyllum*, but the given range of this species (E. Mass. to Penn.) made the determination doubtful. I therefore forwarded it to Dr. James Fletcher, stating that the nearest I could make of it was that it was a thyme or a savory. He replied at once that it was the Wild Thyme of England, *Thymus Serpyllum*, and that its occurrence here at Richmond was interesting in view of the fact that in Macoun's catalogue the only record of its occurrence in Canada is at Truemanville, Nova Scotia, where it is naturalized in an old field. He therefore asked me to furnish a note as to its occurrence at Richmond.

On the 14th of the month, I visited Beechmore Farm, and Mr. Pierce accompanied me to the large field where it was growing. The largest patch was on the east side of a knoll, about a quarter of a mile from the G.T.R. main line and the same distance from the Richmond and Quebec branch of that railway. The elevation is over 100 feet above the railway. The extent of this patch would be about twenty-five feet square, and the plant had spread in a peculiar semi-circular fashion. There were other patches elsewhere in the field of about a yard square, and there were still smaller ones on the west side of the knoll. The latter ones quite plainly owed their distribution to the harrow.

The plant first appeared, Mr. Pierce informed me, some three or four years ago. Its situation makes it improbable that it is an escape from any garden. The only likely source of introduction would seem to be the grass and clover seed which had