

## FIRST WINTER SOIREE.

The first winter meeting of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists's Club was held in the Y.M.C.A. Lecture Hall, December 14th. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President, Prof. John Macoun, delivered the Inaugural address. This address was almost wholly of a reminiscent nature. It was shown that from a very small beginning the Club had grown from year to year until it had become one of the most important institutions of its kind in Canada. Though the progress from year to year had not been great and it sometimes seemed that no progress was being made, one had only to compare what had been done in the early years of the Club's existence with what was being done now to realize that through its stimulating influence interest in natural science in all its branches had each year increased. The membership of the Club showed this. While the original members had continued their work with unabated energy, new members had been almost equally active.

The publication of local lists and notes was in the opinion of Prof. Macoun the most important work that had been done by the Club. By this means all that was worth preserving of each member's work had been put in an easily accessible form and was available for study and reference. In concluding his address, Prof. Macoun emphasized the fact that the young men and women of to-day spent too much of their time in an unprofitable way, and made an earnest appeal to the members of the Club to do all in their power to increase the interest that was already felt in its work.

A paper was read on "Some Local Violets," by Mr. J. M. Macoun, and the report of the Botanical Branch by Mr. D. A. Campbell. These are published in this number of THE NATURALIST. Dr. Jas. Fletcher gave an interesting account of a monstrous specimen of *Trillium grandiflorum* with green blotched flowers and long petioles collected by Mrs. Chamberlain at Lakefield and figured in THE OTTAWA NATURALIST for June, 1896. The root upon which the figured flower was