

REPORT OF THE TENTH MEETING OF THE  
BOTANICAL BRANCH.

The second of the autumnal meetings of the Botanical Branch met at the residence of Mr. James M. Macoun, on Thursday, Nov. 5th. The members present were Messrs. Fletcher, John Macoun, Clarke, Guillet, White, Attwood, Blackadar, W. T. Macoun, St. Jacques, Campbell and J. M. Macoun.

After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read some specimens of the pepos of *Echinocystis lobata* were exhibited in which the fibrous structure was beautifully shown. The luffa of commerce is of the same order—*Cucurbitacea*—and the fruit of *Echinocystis*, when the cellular tissue has disappeared, resembles in miniature the towel-gourd, *Luffa Egyptica*, the dried fruit of which is cut up and used as a flesh-brush. It is to be seen in any drug-store. The fibrous interior of these gourds is known in commerce under the various names luffa, loof, loofa, lief and liff. Another species of *Luffa*—*L. acutangula*, the sponge-gourd—is called "the strainer-vine," from the use of the fibrous net-work contained in its fruit for straining palm-wine.

Growing plants of *Hepatica* and *Corydalis*, brought from the woods the day before, were shown by Mr. J. M. Macoun. These were about to flower, and a few days later the *Hepatica* was found in bloom by Dr. Fletcher. The occurrence of *Physalis grandiflora* only on burnt ground and never in abundance was commented on, but no explanation was suggested. Dr. Blackadar introduced the subject of the propagation of the Lombardy poplar, and in the discussion which followed it was brought out that only male specimens of the Lombardy poplar had been seen in Canada by any of those present and only female trees of the Abele poplar.

Dr. Fletcher told of the use of *Henckera hispida*, alum-root, for the cure of diarrhœa by Indians near Rat Portage, Ont. In discussing reforestation by nature after forest fires Professor Macoun showed that in the years immediately following a fire poplar and birch making the quickest growth are most in evidence, the conifers growing more slowly not being seen; these appear later.

The conclusion of the report of this meeting will appear in the next number of THE NATURALIST.