

Colds, absence from the town, prior engagements, etc., made the attendance very slim at the meeting of the Botanical section of the Field-Naturalists' Club held at Mr. Guillet's house, 8 First avenue, on the 28th January. Only the following attended: Dr. Blackadar and Messrs. Whyte, Campbell, Attwood and St. Jacques. Mr. Whyte brought a great package of beautifully illustrated works on plants and gardening. From these and a few others Mr. Attwood made a bibliography which will be published in *THE NATURALIST*. The opinion was expressed that popular works on botany are of little use to any earnest student, as they take him but a little way and then leave him to grope as blindly as at the beginning, simply because they are not systematic or comprehensive, but give mere scraps of information. The proper way to learn plants is to get a systematic work on classification, a good handbook such as Gray's or Britton's, and then begin at once to make a herbarium, pressing and classifying one's plants as one learns them. Ten plants clearly mastered in this way are worth a hundred hazily named with the aid of Mrs. Dana's pictures of flowers or Mr. Matthew's pictures of leaves.

Mr. Guillet showed the members two charming works on the natural history of two regions of South America, namely, H. W. Bates' "The Naturalist on the River Amazons," 1863, and W. H. Hudson's "The Naturalist in La Plata," 1895. There are several other excellent works similarly named, viz., Belt's "The Naturalist in Nicaragua," 1874, and W. Saville-Kent's "The Naturalist in Australia," 1897. Darwin's "A Naturalist's Voyage Around the World," 1845, might also be mentioned, as well as Wallace's "The Malay Archipelago," 1868. Who will write a book worthy to rank with these and entitle it "The Naturalist in Canada"? Seton-Thompson might have done it, had he not, like Grant Allan, turned aside to work doubtless more remunerative, but certainly less solid, worthy and permanently interesting.

Before reading his paper, the convener made a few remarks concerning the conduct of such a little club within a club as is the Botanical section. He thought that as far as possible the topics of each meeting should be announced beforehand for the sake especially of the more inexperienced members, who would have a chance to prepare to discuss or at least to listen the more in-