

## BOTANY.

EDITED BY WILLIAM SCOTT.

ASTER NOVÆ-ANGLIÆ, varietal forms (1).—The only station in the vicinity of Ottawa for this fine Michaelmas Daisy is Casselman, where some clumps bearing flowers of a beautiful pure white were found on Sept. 10, growing with the ordinary form.—W. S.

(2) Another beautiful form was brought from Toronto by Dr. J. E. White, bearing flowers which varied from pale mauve to deep lilac. The flowers which opened first were deepest in colour.—J. F.

GENIANA SAPONARIA.—Dr. White also brought with him to Ottawa fine flowering specimens and living roots of this rare Gentian. The roots, with some other rare plants presented by Dr. White, are now planted in the herbaceous border of the Botanic Garden at the Central Experimental Farm.—J. F.

HELIANTHUS DECAPETALUS.—A noticeable feature of the Ottawa woods in Autumn is the absence of all species of wild sunflowers. *H. decapetalus*, however, occurs at Casselman and is apparently becoming more abundant there than formerly.—W. S.

GLYCERIA ELONGATA.—This is one of our most local grasses. It has been found sparingly at Kingsmere, but at Casselman it occurs in almost every damp gully.—W. S.

POTATO ROT.—A good object lesson demonstrating the value of scientific knowledge, is to be seen just now at the Experimental Farm. Some potato plants which were twice sprayed with Bordeaux Mixture to prevent the blight are now perfectly covered with green leaves, while all the others around them, and even in the same row, which were not treated, have been brown and dead for three weeks.—J. F.

UMBRELLA MUSHROOMS.—Those botanists of the Club who are lucky enough to know the gastronomic qualities of *Coprinus comatus* have lately enjoyed many dishes of this delicious mushroom. No other fungus resembles it. The shape is at first elongated oval or egg-shaped, but later like a half-closed umbrella, from 3 to 10 inches in height, white when young and covered outside with small brownish hairy tufts. When old it deliquesces into a black inky fluid.—J. F.