

MEETING OF BOTANICAL BRANCH.

February 5th, 1915, at the residence of Mr. D. A. Campbell. There were present Messrs. Blackadar, Buck, Clark, Dymond, Donaldson, Fryer, Grindley, Honeyman, Lelacheur, Newman, Simpson, Tully, Whyte and the host, Mr. D. A. Campbell.

Mr. R. B. Whyte described his recent trip to Egypt and Palestine, and exhibited interesting specimens, photographs, etc., collected during the trip. Mr. Campbell showed a series of lantern slides, consisting of certain examples of the adaptation of plants to their environment, etc., which are used in his botanical and nature study courses at the Collegiate.

Mr. Whyte, in addition to describing many interesting experiences in Egypt and Palestine, drew attention to places through which they passed en route. Madeira, for instance, the first stopping place, produces large quantities of grapes and sugar canes; Gibraltar, the great fortress; Algiers, the city with beautiful Moorish architecture; Monaco and Monte Carlo, with their unique histories and present tragedies; the trolley-ride to Nice with the blue waters of the Mediterranean, 200 feet below; Naples and Pompeii—all received passing notice. The country between Alexandria and Cairo was described as flat, with canals about a mile apart intersecting it in all directions. The houses, in many cases, are built of mud, and elaborate pumping systems distribute the water to the agricultural land, from which several crops are taken every year. In this district a forage crop, somewhat like alfalfa, known locally as berseem, is produced in great quantities. It is really one of the clovers, and is listed as Egyptian or Alexandrian clover, an annual winter variety used in warm countries where irrigation is practiced. Wheat is also produced in great quantities around Alexandria.

At Cairo, Mr. Whyte found many things of interest in its numerous bazaars and incidentally picked up a new method of buying. At Ghizeh, noted for its pyramids, 14 in all, the canals are far below the level of the Nile. Heliopolis, five miles from Cairo, was the old university city of Egypt. Only an obelisk is now left to mark its site.

From the standpoint of the botanist, there was not very much of great interest in the Nile valley. Only a few weeds or wild flowers had an opportunity of becoming established, owing to the annual overflow of the river. A small iris and a few odd weeds were all that could be found. All the public parks of Egypt, such as those in Cairo, had flower beds, in which were grown popular garden flowers like the annual phlox, verbenas, etc. Farm hands in Egypt received from 15c. to 25c. per day.

At Jaffa, the port of entry to Palestine, Mr. Whyte picked the fine flavoured Jaffa oranges. The orange groves extend