

Students' Department.

BOTANICAL TALKS AND RAMBLES WITH CANADIAN STUDENTS.

I.

The object of this series of papers is not so much that of teaching botany as of exciting the interest of students, and of directing or aiding them in the prosecution of this delightful study. To call the study of botany delightful, is, perhaps, as trite and commonplace an observation as could possibly be made. Every writer dilates on the pleasure to be derived from the subject, but, unfortunately, there are few who can be induced to become its votaries. Many persons make the attempt, but are met at the outset with such an array of seemingly unintelligible and outlandish terms that, after a short assay, they turn from the subject in disgust. Others, by reason of their utilitarian views, are deterred from even making an attempt. With this class, however, we have nothing to do, as pharmaceutical students must be aware of the practical importance of knowledge of this kind, and even should they have any doubts in regard to its general utility, they are compelled to recognize its claims as an essential of pharmaceutical education as at present constituted.

In the examinations which have been held under the auspices of the College of Pharmacy, the deficiency of botanical knowledge evinced by the candidates was very marked. In the last examination, the questions given were of the simplest possible character, but, despite this, the answers were, in general, few, meagre and imperfect—several of the candidates being even unable to answer even one question. It is certain that a considerable proportion of those who succeeded in passing these examinations would, undoubtedly, have failed to do so if their deficiency in botany had not been made up by their proficiency in other branches. It is probable that, in subsequent examinations, candidates will be required to obtain a stated percentage of marks in each subject, and that failure in one branch will affect disastrously the entire result. In this case, our young friends had better apply themselves diligently to the study of each of the required branches, and if there is any subject to which they are indifferent, and perhaps even regard with