

The Cinnamon Fern is found in drier situations; and is so called from the colour of the dense, narrow fertile frond which was borne in the centre of the crown of sterile fronds but has now disappeared. The sterile fronds are pinnate, each division deeply cut into oblong lobes, and they may be known by the tufts of brown wool which are usually found on the under side.

The third of this group is the Interrupted Fern. It prefers a shady place, where it frequently rises to a height of five or six feet. Its sterile fronds resemble those of the Cinnamon Fern in shape; but the lobes are rounder, especially those at the summit of the frond. The fertile fronds are much like the sterile, though taller; and show the characteristic interruption near the middle, where possibly the withered remains of the few pairs of fertile pinnae may still adhere.

If an oak tree stands at the margin of the stream, like the oak of Sumner-chace, "hidden to the knees in fern," the ferns which surround it are either the Interrupted Fern or the Ostrich Fern or both. The Ostrich Fern somewhat excels the other in height; its sterile fronds are more strictly upright in growth, and are narrowed toward the base; and its stalk is deeply channelled. The channelled stalk and narrow base will serve to distinguish it from the Cinnamon Fern, for which small specimens might be mistaken. The fertile fronds are often wanting. When present, they are found in the centre of the circle, and are short, with thick, pod-like divisions in which the fruit dots are hidden. This fern is quite abundant in some parts of New Brunswick, though not common in Nova Scotia.

The Sensitive Fern is closely related to the Ostrich Fern, though very different in appearance. We are sure to find it in moist meadows and thickets, where its creeping rootstocks lie upon the surface of the ground. The scattered sterile fronds are long-stalked, few-lobed, and almost triangular in outline. The fertile fronds remain unexpanded, like those of the Ostrich Fern; and, like the latter, they persist through the winter. The sterile fronds of this fern, though coarse looking, are very sensitive to frost, which may account for the name.

Here, too, we may find the delicate Marsh Shield Fern, or Meadow Fern. Its long-stalked fronds, about two feet high, rise from a slender rootstock. It somewhat resembles the Lady Fern

in size and shape, and shares with it the name of Female Fern; but its fruit dots, instead of being long and narrow as in the Lady Fern, are small and round, and the margin of the fertile fronds is strongly reflexed.

In low woods along the brook we shall look for the New York Fern; which is even more delicate and graceful than the Marsh Shield Fern. Its fronds taper both ways from the middle. They are from one to two feet tall, are comparatively pale in colour, and are hairy along the veins beneath; and the ground fruit dots are near the margin, which is not revolute. A single plant of this fern is worth finding; and when a large unbroken bed of it is seen in deep woods it is extremely beautiful.

When we find a good swamp — goodness in swamps is a negative quality — we shall probably see there the Crested Shield Fern. It has a stout, chaffy rootstock, by which it can be most easily distinguished from the Marsh Shield Fern. Other points of distinction are that the fronds are of finer texture, their segments are more triangular in outline, the fruit dots are not so near the margin, and the margin is not revolute. It can hardly be mistaken in the fields for the Spinulose Shield Fern, as the latter grows in upland woods. The sterile fronds of both are evergreen.

(To be concluded next month.)

From the Director of Rural Schools in Nova Scotia comes this story, with its moral. A young teacher, fresh from one of the Summer Schools, and full of enthusiasm, planned a Nature Study lesson as part of her first day's programme in a new school. She sent some children out to bring in fall dandelions and distribute them. The pupils, to whom such work was unknown, took it as a huge joke, pulled the flowers to pieces, and threw them about the room. The lesson was a failure. *Moral* Keep to familiar subjects and beaten tracks until you have got your pupils well in hand.

#### EXAMPLE.

We must set a good example to the children; but the best way to ensure that is to set them the example of somebody better than themselves.—*Stephen Paget*.

Children have more need of models than of critics.  
—*Ouobert*.