

dilated upon the benefit of being a member of the Society.

His talk on strawberry culture was very interesting. Men have made from \$200 to \$1000 from one acre. The eyes of the small boys opened and their mouths watered as he told about the large strawberries—as large as snow apples—that had to be sliced to be eaten. In fact he said they were too large to go into the boys' mouths. If the speaker had a plot of ground he would have it half in strawberries. The H. S. Zobo band gave a selection in fine style which was applauded.

The Society may feel grateful for having such first-class officers. There are 116 good members and "there's more to follow."

Mitchell.—On the 17th of March we held our second annual Horticultural Society meeting in the Town Hall. Like its predecessor of the year before it proved a large, select and enthusiastic gathering. The hall was crowded to the doors, and when Mrs. Torrance rose to speak she said that she had never before seen so many prominent, and would-be prominent citizens on the platform. This alluded first to the fact that all the clergymen and other prominent citizens occupied seats on the platform, and secondly to the fact that the front of the platform was crowded with boys who had been driven from their seats on the floor of the hall by the immense crowd. The musical program was very choice, and the floral display furnished by Mr. C. E. Skinner of our local greenhouse, supplemented by some of the society members, was exceedingly pretty and inspiring.

Dr. Smith, the society president, first introduced the Secretary, who told in a few words what the society had done so far, and was likely to do for the current year. Besides the plant distribution last spring, \$50 worth of bulbs—tulips and hyacinths—has been distributed among the seventy-four members last fall, and in addition to the ordinary plant distribution this spring, one thousand gladioli, purchased from Mr. Groff of Simcoe, will be distributed among the members. This will still leave the government grant, about \$50, to be invested in bulbs for the fall.

Dr. Smith being called away, Mr. W. Elliot, B. A., vice-president, took the chair, and called upon Mrs. Torrance as the first speaker. She gave an instructive talk on shrubbing for the lawn, the best shrubs for the lawn, the system and methods of planting, and care after planting. The second speaker was Rev. R. S. Howard of Trinity Church, who gave a very inspiring address on the pleasures and influences of floral culture in and about the home. The third speaker was Mr. R. B. Stevenson, who talked first on verandah decoration, and then on the preparation of soil for pottery plants. So instructive was Mr. Stevenson that some of the audience asked him to talk for a few minutes on strawberry culture for the family table. It was nearly eleven o'clock when Mr. Stevenson sat down and the meeting was dismissed with the national anthem, led by Rev. A. McAuly of Knox Church, who, as well as Rev. Mr. Howard, Rev. Mr. Kenner and Rev. Mr. Whiting, is an enthusiastic member of the society.

OUR BOOK TABLE.

***SYLVAN ONTARIO.**—It is well that Educationists are considering Nature study as a means of developing habits of observation and discrimination, for there is abundant evidence that such training is needed. We do not expect city-bred people to be familiar with the various trees and shrubs adorning our rural landscape, yet we are fully persuaded that our country-bred are as little able to name correctly the different species of the trees mayhap growing on their own farms, to say nothing of the shrubs.

The appearance of this work at this time is very opportune. It is very creditable both to the enterprise and scholarship of the author. The very modest price places it within the reach of everyone. It should be used in the public schools of city, town and country. It should be in every family where the boys and girls can learn to know the distinctive features of each tree and shrub, thus forming an intimacy with nature that will be a source of purest pleasure through all of life.

Sylvan Ontario, a guide to our native trees and shrubs. By W. H. Muldrew, B. A., Dr. Paed., principal of the Gravenhurst High School. Illustrated with 131 leaf drawings. Toronto, Wm. Briggs, cloth limp 51 cents, cloth boards 75 cents, leather limp \$1.50.

The text opens with an exhaustive and simple explanation of the terms used in describing leaves in all of their varied forms and peculiarities. This is followed by a leaf index which enables the reader, now become familiar with the descriptive terms, to ascertain the botanical name and the number under which the plant is more fully described in succeeding pages. By the use of the leaf-index and the drawings, in which will be found a typical delineation of every form of leaf, it is a very simple and easy matter to become thoroughly acquainted with the botanical and the common names of all of our arborescent plants. The descriptions given are necessarily short, yet give valuable information concerning each of the two hundred and ten Ontario trees and shrubs.

307 Givens St, Toronto.

D. W. BEADLE.

COUNTRY LIFE IN AMERICA for April, if possible surpasses all previous numbers in general excellence. The illustrations are superb, and the reading matter elegant. Nothing equal to this journal has ever before appeared, and the price is reasonable, only \$3 a year. The publishers are Doubleday, Page & Co., 34 Union Square East, New York City.