

bracken fern. He also reported that a species of *Agrilus* had recently become a serious enemy to the birch. A white birch tree near his house had been killed apparently by this insect, but as the beetles emerged during his absence he had obtained no specimens. Mr. Harrington thought it might be *A. obsoletæguttatus*, of which both sexes had been taken upon birch. Some discussion followed as to the duration of the larval stage of Buprestidæ and on retarded development in these and other insects, due to deficient heat, moisture or food, or to causes not yet understood. Mr. Young showed a hawk-moth, *Cressonia juglandis*, and described a curious crepuscular flight of the males, which he had observed at Meach Lake; the moths flying too and fro across a patch of smooth water and repeatedly dipping the tip of the abdomen in the water. He also showed *Thecla leta*, a little blue butterfly, new to the Ottawa list, and which is a well known cotton pest in the Southern States. Dr. Fletcher exhibited, as a really rare insect, the fine moth *Hepialus thule*. This species was described from a specimen taken some years ago at Montreal, and so far it has not occurred elsewhere. It is stated to fly only between 8 and 9 o'clock, p.m., during the brief period of its winged existence. Dr. Fletcher also read some extracts from proofs sheets of the Entomological Record for 1903 (Rept. Ent. Soc. Ont.), which indicated that entomologists, especially in the Western provinces, had made many good captures during the year and had largely added to our knowledge of Canadian insects. Mr. Gibson said that in 1991 eggs of a then undescribed arctian moth had been received from Mr. Cockle of Kaslo. Last year similar eggs had again been received and the moths had been bred. Dr. Dyar had also bred the species at Kaslo and had named it *Diacrisia kasloa*. Inflated larvæ, pupæ and five imagoes were exhibited.

W. H. H. (Sec.)

MEETING OF THE BOTANICAL BRANCH.

The first meeting in the new year was held at the residence of Mr. A. E. Attwood on January 7th. Those present were Dr. J. Fletcher, Prof. J. Macoun, Dr. C. Guillelt, Mr. E. R. Cameron, Mr. W. T. Macoun, Mr. R. B. Whyte, Mr. J. M. Macoun, Mr. D. A. Campbell and Mr. Robert Hamilton.