

or for sport on the gravelly bottom, or to bask in the sun. Presently others come out from out from their hiding places and a shoal of fish gather, which disappear as if by magic when a shadow is cast on the surface or a concussion by sound affects the water. Their habits and their pastimes (for fish apparently indulge in these) are very interesting. Chasing each other, darting to and fro, grubbing up the sand, rubbing against each other, and nest building (amongst some species) afford plenty of room for observation. Besides fish, other life is plentiful and affords scope for curiosity. It is astonishing what pleasure can be got out of even a shallow pool; and the writer hopes that calling attention to this will be the means of offering a new attraction in his brother-naturalists' outings.

H. B. SMALL, Ottawa, Canada.

#### MICROSCOPICAL SOIREE.

The winter course of lectures was opened by a very pleasant evening in the Convocation Hall of the Normal School, for the use of which the Club is indebted to Dr. McCabe. Arrangements had been made by the Soiree Committee, to illustrate, by a number of fine microscopes, some specially selected objects of interest. The President, Dr. Dawson, opened the meeting by a suitable address, and touched briefly on the present position of the club and the work it was performing. Prof. Saunders followed by a concise and interesting account of "A Grain of Wheat," giving a synopsis of the history, growth and structure of this very important seed. Prof. Prince introduced the subject of Zoology, and made some observations upon the development of the brain, especially in connection with that of fishes. At the close of these brief addresses, meant only to introduce the subjects which had been chosen for illustration by slides, an hour was pleasantly devoted to gazing upon the wonders revealed by the various microscopes. Besides the illustrations presided over by Prof. Saunders and Prof. Prince, the subject of entomology was taken up by Prof. Whiteaves, and was illustrated by a large series of preparations. The thanks of the Club were tendered to Mr. W. Scott, who kindly installed, for the illumination of the microscopes, a beautiful line of electric lamps.—Ed.