

Smith Woodward and more than a score of other distinguished geologists and palæontologists who have been similarly honoured.

We extend to Dr. Whiteaves our hearty and sincere congratulations on having received this well-merited recognition of the value of his scientific work from such a high source as the governing body of the Geological Society of London as a "mark of honorary distinction" under the consideration that he has "deserved well of the Science."

L. M. L.

SOIRÉES.

The opening soirée of the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club, held on the evening of December 6th in the Assembly Hall of the Normal School could hardly have been more successful. The attendance was large and the programme one of the best ever provided by the Club.

The president, Mr. W. J. Wilson, presented an able paper dealing with the aims of the Club, the nature and scope of its work, and the advantages afforded to its members. His address was printed in the last issue of the NATURALIST.

Dr. Jas. Fletcher read a paper prepared by Dr. J. Chester Bradley of the University of California on "An Entomological Excursion to the Selkirk Mountains." Illustrating the paper was an exceptionally fine set of lantern slides. The views differed from the ordinary photograph taken by tourists; for besides bringing out scenic effects such as the characteristic skyline of the Selkirks, their glaciers, waterfalls, rivers and lakes, they show in the foreground features of especial interest to the naturalist. These included the characteristic plants of the different zones, from the lower valleys with their gigantic trees and dense undergrowth to the stunted firs of the tree limit and the alpine meadows of the higher slopes. There were some particularly fine views of these meadows showing their great extent and the remarkable size and profusion of the flowers. Dr. Fletcher made the views doubly interesting by observations and incidents drawn from his own experience in the Selkirks.