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## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

W. J. WILSON, Ph. B.

The Ottawa Field Naturalists Club was formed I take it to study the Geology and Natural History of Ottawa and vicinity. This seems on the face of it to be a praise-worthy object, yet we are constantly met with the question—What is the good of it all? Only a few days ago I was asked if I thought it was worth while for a busy man or woman to spend his or her time in working for the Club. I naturally answered the question in the affirmative, and in the five minutes at my disposal this evening I will give some of the reasons why I think it is worth while.

It seems to me that a good knowledge of the botany of the district is in itself a good thing and the same may be said of the insects, birds, fossils, rocks and every other subject which we study. Some of these studies are of considerable economic importance. We frequently see crops in fields largely reduced in value owing to the abundance of weeds, which if the owner understood he might either destroy or largely reduce. It is a case where ignorance is not bliss. The study of the life history of insects has enabled our entomologists to point out the best and most effective way of destroying those that are injurious to plant life, and in this way have saved large sums to our farmers, gardeners and fruit growers. It is very useful to the contractor to know the quality of the rocks in his immediate neighborhood and where he can get the best material to use in the construction of buildings, etc. Now the detailed work that our members have an opportunity of doing year after year enables them to study these and kindred questions to the best advantage, and the Club has