

OTTAWA NORMAL SCHOOL—BOTANICAL COMPETITION

THE PREMIER'S PRIZE.—Some months ago the Honourable G. W. Ross, Premier of the Province of Ontario, informed the President of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club that he would be glad to offer for competition among the students of the Ottawa Normal School a Medal or prize in books for the best work done in connection with the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club. Later, a second prize was offered by the President of the Club for the same object and the Normal School authorities were apprised of the same. The work selected was in the form of collections of plants from the Ottawa District, to be obtained, pressed, named and classified, according to the requirements of the Science Master of the Provincial Normal School and in accordance with the wishes of the Club.

Accordingly, a large series of collections (over ninety) were sent in for competition and the Council of the Club appointed Professor John Macoun, Dr. James Fletcher and Dr. H. M. Ami, as Judges in the said competition.

From the report made to the Normal School authorities by the Committee of Judges, it appears that the collections were both excellent and numerous and the competition was very keen. The neatness and care with which a large number of these were prepared showed clearly that more than a passing acquaintance with the plants mounted, prepared and classified was obtained by the great bulk of the contestants.

In reporting the result of the competition to Council, the Judges expressed the great satisfaction they had experienced while examining these collections. In this connection, the following notes may not be out of place :—

The collection which the judges consider gave on the whole the best indication of excellence in preparation, care, accuracy in determination, &c., was that of Miss Elma Cannon, of Athens, Ont., and to this lady was awarded the Ross prize.

The next best collection was that of Miss Mary E. Robson, of Grey County, Ont., and to this lady was awarded the President's prize, which consisted of a copy of the recently issued beautiful work entitled "Nature's Garden," by Neltje Blanchan.