

Besides many interesting species that are well known to us, Miss Taylor brought specimens of two plants from Peel River in the Mackenzie delta which may eventually throw some light on the origin of the northern flora. One is a species of Birch which is evidently a good sized tree and which is either identical with a Siberian species (*Betula microphylla*) or is new to science. Ripe fruit of the species was procured and seed has been handed to Mr. Fletcher to be grown in the Botanic Garden of the Experimental Farm, and thus in time, I trust, we shall know exactly what it is. The other species is an Umbelliferous plant related to the genus *Ligusticum* which may also be new.

This collection is of much interest and demonstrates clearly what good scientific results may be obtained by an observant traveller with a little trouble if only there be a wish to make the most of such opportunities as may arise.—JOHN MACCOUN, Ottawa.

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CONCHOLOGY.

LIMNÆA STAGNALIS.—A beautiful living albino of this species was found in Chilcott's Lake, Masham, in August. The animal did not appear to differ from those in the numerous other specimens of the same species which occurred in the same locality; the shell, however, was as white as a pearl and of beautiful lustre. Erosion of the epidermis and exposure to the sun tend to whiten the shells of all our snails; but the epidermis of this example is perfect. Its whiteness results no doubt from disease of those peculiar glands whose function it is, in the shell-bearing mullusca, to extract an infinite number of beautiful pigments and deposit them in that combination of variety and regularity at which all have marvelled who have ever observed a cabinet of shells, where

“Not a shell

“But shows some trace in freckle, streak or stain,

“Of His unrivaled pencil.”

HELIX DENTIFERA.—This rare shell was taken a few years ago on Mr. Craig's farm near Casselman. It appears to have reached at that point the north-eastern limit of its distribution in Canada. There is a