

and their habits noted. The audience seem much interested in the remarks of the Leaders, and many points brought forward were more fully discussed on the way homeward.

FOURTH.—The botanical and entomological branches visited the Beaver Meadow, near Hull, on 4th June, their being present eighteen persons. This locality is one of the richest collecting grounds in the district, and the collectors secured many interesting specimens. On gathering at 4.30 p.m., Mr. Fletcher, for the benefit of several who were entering upon the study of botany, described the apparatus necessary for the preservation of specimens, and the methods of treatment which he had found most suitable for different classes of plants. His large experience enabled him to give some very valuable hints as to the care of specimens in special cases, as when traveling, etc. The President, Mr. R. B. Whyte, then spoke on several of the plants gathered, showing how the species fell into certain families, although sometimes the members of a family differed greatly in appearance. He took the Ranunculaceæ, as being the first family in botanical classification, and discussed four species belonging to it. Of the genus *Smilacina* (Liliaceæ) three species had been collected out of the four which occur at Ottawa. The yellow lady's slipper, the wild-rose, the climbing honey-suckle, and other interesting or rare plants were also exhibited. Mr. Harrington, in his remarks on insects, drew attention to specimens of *Thalessa*, explaining that they were the largest of the ichneumons, or parasitic hymenoptera, and describing the method of oviposition of the female, and the difference in the appearance of the two sexes. *Xiphydria albicornis* was stated to be injurious to maples in the city, frequently attacking small transplanted shade-trees. A very pretty dragon-fly (*Calopteryx maculata*), several specimens of which had been seen flitting about the brook, had the very curious habit of going down some distance beneath the surface of the water for the purpose of depositing its eggs at the base of the weeds. The beneficial habits of an allied insect were also mentioned. On the way back to the city the members had a good opportunity of seeing several specimens of *Thalessa atrata* and *lurator* ovipositing in an old sugar-maple.

FIFTH.—On the following Saturday—11th June—a party of