

THE EVOLUTION OF THE MACDONALD COLLEGE.

Professor W. Lochhead, of the Macdonald College, Ste. Anne de Bellevue, gave an address to the members of the Field Naturalist's Club on the above subject in the Normal School on the evening of February 26th.

The speaker said, in part: The Macdonald College, as a future training school for young men and women for rural life, like every other great work, is the product of adequate causes; it is the result of ideas and tendencies that have been manifesting themselves for many years in the educational world; it is an expression of the Educational Unrest that makes for real progress in the efforts to adapt our educational system and methods to the conditions and needs of our time.

There is a rural life, and there is a town or urban life, with distinctly different conditions and problems. A large percentage of our people live on farms, while all are dependent, either directly or indirectly, on the farms for their sustenance and prosperity. One would naturally suppose, therefore, that the study of rural life would be given much prominence in our elementary schools, and that every encouragement would be given the larger boys and girls who had passed through the usual grades of the rural schools, to equip themselves still further for their life work. As a matter of fact, however, the studies in most rural schools are quite similar to those carried on in town and city schools, while the high schools give practically no attention to the requirements of rural life. Their courses are admirably adapted to those desirous of becoming teachers and university students, but they fail to meet the needs of the great majority of the pupils passing through the public schools. The high schools practically compel every student to "face about and march" for the Normal School or College, for the course of studies gives no alternative. (Of late years Commercial courses are given in many high schools).

For some time, then, thoughtful people have felt that the studies in rural schools do not deal definitely enough with rural things and conditions. There is no longer any real doubt that such studies are valuable educationally, for the agricultural colleges have shown that these possess high cultural value as well as practical utility.

Owing to the constant changes in agricultural conditions which result from the new applications of knowledge, each individual citizen needs a higher degree of adaptability than was formerly the case. Professor Sadler says: "These changes in the