

SOIRÉES.

The fourth soirée of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club was held in the Y. M. C. A. lecture room on the evening of July 11th, when the Rev. Robert Campbell, D.D., lectured on "The Ferns of Canada." The lecture was illustrated by lantern slides showing the various kinds of fern structure and fructification and with the exception of a few western species, the large series of slides shown included nearly every form found in Canada. In his introductory remarks the lecturer defined the terms used in describing the various parts of a fern and as each picture was thrown on the screen the differences between genera and species of the same genus were pointed out. The slides were all good, but those made from photographs of mounted specimens were much truer to nature than the reproductions of drawings. In addition to the slides Dr. Campbell exhibited a very complete and finely mounted collection of the ferns of Canada. The lecture was of great interest not only to the botanist but to the many lovers of ferns who, though not botanists, are lovers of Nature.

REVIEW.

MATTHEW, G. F.—ARE THE SAINT JOHN BEDS CARBONIFEROUS?
Amer. Geol. Vol. XXVII. No. 6, pp. 383-386, Minneapolis,
Minn., U.S.A., June, 1901.

This brief paper is an attempt to give the evidence upon which the plant-bearing beds of the St. John district rest regarding their reference to the Devonian and Silurian systems as held by Dr. Matthew. Correlations with the "Millstone Grit" of England and the "Mauch Chunk" of Pennsylvania are given for different portions of New Brunswick. Two distant series exist, says Dr. Matthew, one in which the sandstones occur as "free stones," the other in which the "sandstones are strongly cemented with silica and some calcite, the shales converted into slates, the limestones are more crystalline and the beds usually tilted at high angles." An unconformity exists at the point of division. Dr. Matthew holds with discordance of dip &c. The *Mispec* and the *Little River* terranes, the latter constituting the fern beds in question, according to Dr. Matthew, lie beneath the unconformity. Dr. Bailey, Dr. Ellis, Sir Wm. Dawson, Dr. T. Sterry Hunt, and Dr. Selwyn are given as authorities for the view that the stratigraphical sequence is as given by Dr. Matthew. The latter claims that recent discoveries serve to prove that types which are usually referred to this "flora have been gathered from the lower horizons of the Carboniferous. Dr. Matthew also adds that many genera of plants have a wide vertical range citing a recent genus supposed to be found in the Dretaceous. Dr. Matthew makes the so-called "Millstone Grit" the equivalent of the "Pottsville Conglomerate.

H. M. A.