

growing together and are moreover visited by various insects, particularly bees, it must naturally be supposed that they are readily cross-fertilized. It is, therefore, interesting to know that this crossing does not apparently affect the colour of the seeds on individual plants, which are still either all yellow or all greenish.

No attempt has been made to breed the plants to ascertain whether the resulting seeds confirm to the usual Mendelian law, when yellow and green producing seed plants are crossed, though doubtless this is the case.

NORMAN CRIDDLE.

MEETING OF THE BOTANICAL BRANCH.

Held December 19th, at the home of Mr. G. H. Clark, 501 O'Connor Street. Dr. M. O. Malte had charge of the meeting and exhibited many fine specimens of Canadian grasses, a collection of which he is preparing for exhibition at the Panama-Pacific Exhibition at San Francisco in 1915.

The remarks of Dr. Malte dealt with "Climatic and Soil Conditions as they influence Plant Life." Many of the specimens which he exhibited demonstrated in a very forceful manner how extremely powerful such influences are. It was stated that during the four months of collecting during the past summer he had brought together about two hundred distinct species of grasses. Of these about one hundred and seventy were native to Canada. The other thirty odd were probably originally imported from Europe, but could be now found wild in many places in Canada. These European grasses, he stated, did exceptionally well in the coastal regions, such as those of Nova Scotia and British Columbia. In this connection, he exhibited and discussed the awnless Italian Rye grass of which about fifty distinct forms could be found. Such forms being to a large extent the result of climatic and soil conditions. Moreover, the influence of such conditions also accounted for the fact that while this particular grass was an annual at Ottawa, in other parts of the Dominion it took on a biennial form, while in British Columbia, it became a true perennial. His remarks in this connection, that is, as to why a plant changed its seasonal habits, provoked some interesting remarks from other members of the club, who held different opinions on this point. This grass, he said, had been known to yield as high as eighteen tons to the acre, where the area it occupied had been irrigated by flooding it from a city sewerage system.

An interesting fact mentioned was, that out of the two