

Our medium of publication, THE OTTAWA NATURALIST, which constitutes and includes the Transactions of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, has been regularly published since 1880. In its 13 volumes there are more than 2000 pages of text, and there may be found stores of information bearing upon local natural history, in which the economic as well as the scientific side of the subject is recorded. It is not my purpose to shower encomiums or praise on the workers of the Club for what they have accomplished. The pleasure and interest as well as the health and exercise derived from such researches are sufficient remuneration for whatever toil, trouble and drudgery they may have experienced. To develop the powers of observation and comparison in man there is no better occupation. It is excellent training for the mind as well as the body.

One feature of the Club's work to which I need scarcely draw your attention is in connection with the educational institutions of the city. It is very gratifying to the executive of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club to have our meetings and excursions prove of interest to those engaged in training the mind. We are pleased also to have the good-will of the worthy principal of the Normal School—Dr. MacCabe—who has always been a friend of the Club. It is one of the ambitions of the Club to assist in a measure not only to awaken a live interest in natural history researches, but also to build up a reference collection of specimens illustrating the recent as well as extinct faunas and floras in the Ottawa district, so that the students of botany, entomology, conchology and geology, as well as ethnology can have access to it for the sake of comparison.

We are pleased to see that already a number of collections have been donated by various members of the Club to form the nucleus of such a useful series. The best thanks of the Club are due to Dr. MacCabe for the use of this fine Assembly Hall for three evenings of the course of winter soirées.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE LATE E. BILLINGS.

It was my purpose at one time to give you this evening a short paper on the more important localities where the most interesting geological phenomena may be studied to advantage about