

FIRST AUTUMN SUB-EXCURSION.

A most successful sub-excursion—the first held this autumn—took place on Saturday afternoon, September 26th. About 50 members and friends of the Club, including many of the Normal School students, left the pavilion at Rockcliffe under the guidance of the President, Mr. W. T. Macoun, and spent a most delightful afternoon in the woods around Rockcliffe, Mackay's Lake and Beechwood. The weather was perfect for such an expedition. The beauty of the autumn woods called forth many appreciative exclamations of wonder, and one pair of hands could hardly hold the many treasures gathered by every member of the party. The company very soon broke up into three groups, one going with Dr. Ami to study the fossils near the river. The main body followed the President along the eastern shore of Mackay's Lake, where they studied the trees and shrubs, of which there is there great variety. A smaller party went with Mr. Attwood, Dr. Whiteaves and Dr. Fletcher around the western shore. Afterwards both parties joined in the woods near Beechwood. Here short addresses were delivered by the President and Dr. Fletcher. Special attention was directed to forest trees, berries and other fruits. The distribution of plants was illustrated by the various kinds of burs, of which a large and representative collection was available on the clothes of the excursionists. Some rare ferns were collected and exhibited such as *Pellaea gracilis*, the Rock Brake, *Asplenium angustifolium*, and *Aspidium Goldianum*. Simple characters were given by which the different families of ferns could be recognized. The great rarity found was the curious Peloria state of the Common Toad-flax, *Linaria vulgaris*. Violets, which have been so carefully studied in this locality, also came in for some attention, and the inconspicuous cleistogamous flowers and autumn fruits of several species were shown, including *Viola Dicksonii* with its underground fruit, and pods which had been formed underground and had then pushed their way to the surface two or three inches from the main stem. The automatic distribution of the seeds of violets by the contraction of the strong valves of the pods was explained. The autumn flowers of the Canada Violet were much admired. The hibernation of insects came in for some attention, the caterpillar of the Isabella Moth serving as an illustration. The gay caterpillar of *Cucullia asteroides* was found on *Aster cordifolius*.