

MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL.

The first meeting of the new Council was held in the library of the Normal School, March 25th. The members present were: The President, Misses Matthews, Ritchie and Jackson, and Messrs. Attwood, Halkett, Eifrig, Gibson, Clarke, Macoun, Lemieux and Gallup. Six new members were proposed and elected. A communication was read from Mr. Charles Pollard, Secretary of the Wild Flower Preservation Society of America, offering to lecture here under the auspices of the Club. A committee was appointed to make arrangements for this lecture. A proposal from the University of California to exchange the publications of the University for *THE OTTAWA NATURALIST* was accepted.

The Publishing, Excursion and Soirée Committees, leaders in the various branches of the Club's work and an Editor and Associate Editors were elected. A noteworthy characteristic of the new Council is the number of new members, all of whom have entered enthusiastically upon the work, and a successful Club year is anticipated.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE EDITOR, *THE OTTAWA NATURALIST*,

Dear Sir:—In your February issue a remarkable circumstance is recorded by Mr. Geo. A. Dunlop, adding a new accident to the list of those which may befall a ruffed grouse.

This individual, apparently in sound health, was found with its tail feathers frozen into the ice crust, under a bush. In the winter they commonly sleep on the ground, entering snowdrifts only in the coldest weather. It is absolutely certain that its tail could not have been frozen down, had there not been at the place some frozen liquid. This may have been produced by a certain condition of the bird's bowels, or the sun's heat in such a sheltered spot may have melted the snow, so that it was wet when the bird went in, or finally, the bird's tail may have been wet when it went to bed, and a frosty night completed the dilemma.

This you will remember is an accident of a class which happens every year to the foxes in Alaska. They sit down on the wet ice, thereby casting a shadow over it. In 15 or 20 minutes the wet in the shadow has congealed, and the fox would be made prisoner but that he tears himself violently away, leaving much of his fur in the ice. The consequence is, that in the spring of the year all the blue foxes have their buttocks more or less denuded of fur.

ERNEST THOMPSON SETON.

Cos Cob, Conn., March 22, 1907.