

PRESIDENT'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS—1890.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—In opening the lecture course of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club for the present season, I feel that there are several things which call for a word of general remark before we enter upon the discussion of the several scientific subjects which, as you will see by reference to your programmes, the Soiree Committee have so liberally provided for our entertainment. And, first of all, I think this society has great cause for rejoicing, in the fact that we have had placed at our disposal, through the kindness of the authorities in charge of the Normal School building, and more particularly through the courtesy of Dr. MacCabe, the Principal, the large and commodious rooms of this institution in which to hold our lecture courses; a change, I am sure, that all will appreciate, not only those whose place it is to speak to you but those who may listen; for there is no denying the fact that much of the pleasure and profit derivable from any lecture course is dependent upon comfortable and attractive surroundings. On behalf of the Club, therefore, I would desire to tender our thanks, through Dr. MacCabe, for the privileges which have been hereby conferred upon our society, more especially since, through this courtesy on their part, we are enabled to extend very considerably the aims of this club, in that we are now in a position to tender a cordial invitation to the large classes of students who attend the Normal School to be present at all our lectures and soirees, a thing impracticable heretofore owing to the limited lecture room at our disposal. In this way, I say, the original purpose of the club's work, viz., that of Education, will be very greatly facilitated.

I must, in the second place, congratulate the club as a whole on its rapidly increasing membership, which now reaches nearly 300 persons, as well as upon the fact that many of our new members are persons of influence at points remote from Ottawa, and among whom are represented the several provinces from the Atlantic to the Pacific; a feature which, I take it, is largely due to the change in the policy of the club two years ago, when the scope of its work and transactions was extended. In this extended membership I see a very great element of strength, so much so that I feel, if we can keep up the