

## ON THE AUTUMN-FLOWERING OF VARIOUS WILD PLANTS IN 1900.

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On account of the remarkably mild autumn of last year, one might have gathered nosegays of wild flowers about Ottawa, not only throughout October, but during the first half of November. We had our first real snowstorm and sleighing the 13th November, but even for some time after that wild flowers were to be found in odd nooks and corners. Berries also were to be seen unusually late. Dr. James Fletcher tells me, he gathered as many ripe red raspberries as he cared to eat, at Kirk's Ferry, on the 27th September, and they were of excellent flavor. I picked a few near Rockcliffe Park as late as the 15th October, which were, however, of better color than taste.

It is well known that different plants bloom at different times; that there is, so to speak, a procession of the flowers. Just when or for how long we may expect this or that plant to bloom is not so well known. I am not aware that the order in which the 1,200 odd species of flowering plants, of the Ottawa district, put forth their blossoms has ever been determined. Here is a pleasant and useful task for the students of nature in every locality of our country. As a slight contribution to this end, I submit the following late autumn observations made in the vicinity of Ottawa, together with observations made in other parts of the country by several readers of this "THE OTTAWA NATURALIST," who have been so good as to communicate them to me.

Viper's bugloss or the "blue thistle" (*Echium vulgare*)—said by Prof. Harrison in his "Weeds of Ontario," to be imported from Europe—was quite abundant on October 26th, on a limestone ridge three miles out the Montreal Road. Three other "weeds" (as the farmer justly calls them) I found on November 6th, namely, May-weed (*Maruta cotula*) and ox-eye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*) on the roadside, and treacle mustard (*Erysimum cheiranthoides*) in a garden, in Ottawa East. I saw a patch of white clover in Mr. Odell's brickyard on November 6th, and some red clover near the same place on the same day, and again near Hemlock Lake on November 8th and 12th. North of Peterboro' at Stony Lake, I