

Excursion No. 1.—As announced, the first field day of the O.F.N. Club for the season of 1895 was held on Saturday, 18th May. It has generally been found that the country lying immediately south of the first range of the Laurentides shows the effects of advancing spring earlier than any other portion of the *Ottawa district* and consequently some point in that neighbourhood has always been in favour for the May excursion.

This year Chelsea was chosen. A special train on the Ottawa and Gatineau Railway, starting at 1.30 p.m., carried nearly 200 members of the club and their friends. By invitation there were present several members of the Royal Society of Canada, the annual meeting of which had closed on the preceding day, as well as a large contingent of the Ottawa Camera Club and of the students of the Provincial Normal School. Upon reaching Chelsea, about 2 o'clock, the party, as usual, divided into several sections, each accompanying its own leader to the point of greatest interest in some favourite branch of natural history. The Geological section under Dr. R. W. Ells visited Old Chelsea and a mica mine on the mountain side above that little village. The Botanical and Entomological sections under Mr. Jas. Fletcher and Mr. W. H. Harrington took the woods in the direction of the Gatineau; while the rocky gorge of that river and the picturesque rapids above Messrs. Gilmour & Hughson's mills attracted most of the members of the Camera Club.

Everywhere, vegetation, even the native plants and trees, showed unmistakable signs of having suffered from the recent severe frosts, following the treacherously warm spell of the 5th to the 11th May.

The afternoon, though breezy, was pleasant; but unfortunately the hour set aside for the examination and remarks of the leaders upon the specimens collected was marred by a slight rainstorm. Many of the party sought the shelter of the cars, but a fair audience braved the weather on the open platform of the station, where short addresses were delivered by Dr. A. R. C. Selwyn, president of the Royal Society, Prof. Goodwin, of Queen's University, and Mr. Kane, of St. John, N.B.

The botanical specimens collected were then named and commented upon by Messrs. R. B. Whyte and J. Craig, the insects by Mr. J. Fletcher and the rocks and minerals by Dr. Ells.

The party returned to Ottawa about 7 p.m.