

few of our members have brought under our notice facts or specimens. Surely no more rational or pleasant way of spending an evening can be found than in listening to new facts on the natural history of our country, and in examining and discussing the interesting and often rare or new specimens by which they are illustrated; and it should be borne in mind that we do not expect long or elaborate papers, but are quite content to receive the simplest and shortest notes on any natural phenomena that may be observed, or on any natural facts, either of scientific interest or of practical utility. Our Sommerville Lectures are largely attended by the public, and it appears to me that many of our monthly meetings have been of quite as great interest even to those not deeply versed in science, and vastly more so to those who are. Scientific societies in a country like this are of slow growth, but surely after an existence of half a century, and after having held up the torch of science for that long time in this community, this Society should have acquired greater strength. In the present Session it has completed its fiftieth year, and I think that it is time its members should make greater efforts to revive and strengthen it, so that it may be able with some vigour and eclat to celebrate its jubilee.

The address of the President was followed by the Report of the Chairman of Council, Mr. G. L. Marler, as follows:

#### REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL.

At the close of another Session your Council beg to submit the following *résumé* of proceedings during the past year.

There has been little of extraordinary moment to which to call the attention of the members, but it may be stated that the labours of the Society seem to have been better appreciated than in the past, and also that there has been a larger attendance at the Sommerville Lectures and more visitors to the Museum.

The usual field day was a success in point of numbers, about 109 persons having been present. The trip was a very enjoyable one, as the weather was bright and pleasant. The party went by rail to Lachine, thence by boat up the river St. Lawrence, past Ile Dorval to Ile Perrot, where the boat stopped for a couple of hours to enable the excursionists to gather botanical specimens. The steamer then proceeded up through the Lake of Two Mountains to Oka, at which place the stay was too short, there not being sufficient time left for the ascent of