

REPORT OF THE NINTH MEETING OF THE
BOTANICAL BRANCH.

The meetings of the Botanical branch, which were discontinued during the summer months, have been resumed, the first having been held at the residence of Mr. W. T. Macoun, Experimental Farm, on Friday, October 23rd. There were ten present at this meeting, which was a good indication that the meetings will be well attended this winter. It was decided that instead of appointing a secretary to report the discussions for the whole season, each chairman or host should report the meetings for THE OTTAWA NATURALIST.

Dr. Wm. Saunders, who was present, exhibited some interesting specimens from the west, among which were: *Epilobium latifolium*, *Menziesia glabella*, *Rhododendron albiflorum*, *Pinus albicaulis*, and *Abies subalpina*, with its dark purple cones, from near Glacier; *Helenium autumnale*, from near Battleford; *Collomia linearis*, which is a crop pest about Saskatoon; and *Eleagnus angustifolia* from Medicine Hat. He referred to the great September snowstorm, and said that near Indian Head, although the snow fell to a depth of eighteen inches the wheat was very little injured by it. Dr. Saunders also referred to his work in originating hardy apples for Manitoba and the North-West by crossing *Pyrus baccata*, the wild Siberian crab, with the apple, and showed examples of the hybrids, which were about as large as Transcendent crabs. The flora of the Peace River was briefly touched upon by Mr. J. M. Macoun. He said that it was a surprise to him to find so few species, there being only about 200 in all. There were large areas of some species, such as *Astragalus hypoglottis* and *Hedysarum boreale*. Trees were represented by only seven species, namely two poplars, two spruces, one pine, tamarac, and one birch. While in that immense district only some 200 species of plants were found, the contrast between it and the Ottawa district was impressed on the members by Mr. Guillet's statement that he had found 28 species of plants on that little island in the Ottawa River off Bank street which is covered with water every year for a time. Among the number were six species of trees.