

northern distribution of a number of forms. This surmise was abundantly confirmed by the fact that 28 species were collected last summer in the vicinity of the Experimental Farm itself, and some 40 species are recorded for the district.

It may be considered, in view of the circumstances of the case, that the publication of even a preliminary list of the species observed is, at this time, premature. This would be a reasonable objection if it were sought to emphasize the amount of information gained, rather than to draw attention to the need for much more extended work before a record approaching completeness can be prepared. The vegetative stage of the plants, consisting of a slimy mass of naked protoplasm (the *plasmodium*) is usually concealed in decaying wood, or amongst fallen leaves or other decomposing vegetable matter, and only seeks the light when about to enter upon spore formation. While the fructification is often well exposed in some elevated place, for instance, on a tree stump, it is not infrequently on the underside of a log, amongst leaves, or on small twigs on the ground, and this, taken together with the small size of the sporangia in many cases, makes it necessary to search very carefully if nothing is to be missed. Furthermore, the sporangia are often so delicate that a heavy rain-storm after they have been formed may render the identification of them almost impossible. All these circumstances make it possible to work over a small area very thoroughly at frequent intervals, and yet enter on another search in the same spot with a reasonable hope of meeting with something new. The main purpose of the writer, therefore, in publishing this article is to secure the interest and assistance of those who may have an opportunity of obtaining specimens. It is hardly expected that many persons will collect material systematically, but the knowledge that the local forms are being studied may induce those who are pursuing field-work along other lines, or who are spending a vacation in the country to collect and preserve the specimens they meet with. The country around Chelsea and Kingsmere, for instance, suggests almost inexhaustible possibilities for the collection of these organisms, and summer residents could obtain many specimens with very little trouble.

With regard to collecting it may be said that much better results are usually obtained by a thorough examination of a small area than by superficially looking over one of wider extent. Where the material is found on dead wood a note should be made as to the kind of wood if identification is still possible. In many cases it will be found, however, that the logs, stumps and branches apparently most attractive to the Myxomycete are too much decomposed to admit of any opinion as to their