

from the soil at that season when the wood was ripening and also served other useful purposes.

The stimulating nature of the lecture was shown at the close by a volley of questions from the members present, and a vote of thanks was heartily endorsed by the audience.

D. A. C.

MEETINGS OF BOTANICAL BRANCH.

A meeting of the botanical section was held at the home of Prof. Macoun, December 10th, 1903. The subject of the evening was "Weeds and the causes that lead to their dispersion." Prof. Macoun introduced the subject by remarking that our weeds were "Aliens" and not "Natives," and remarked that on one occasion while showing an eminent English botanist around the city and its suburbs, the visitor remarked that there was a wonderful similarity between Canadian plants and those of England. He was very much surprised when told that all he saw were aliens and he must go to the woods to see the native plants.

Prof. Macoun further developed his subject by showing that Canadian plants, native at Ottawa, were necessarily incapable of occupying our roadsides and cultivated fields, and hence in the struggle for existence in the open they had no chance with the immigrants. Numerous illustrations were brought forward in support of this, then seed dispersion was taken up and a warm and interesting discussion took place, which was joined in by nearly all present. Dr. Guillet brought up the subject of "Sheep Burrs," to illustrate the methods adopted by various species to assist in the dispersion of their seed, and other members supported his views by many apt illustrations which showed that most of the members held his opinions. After a very animated discussion, Prof. Macoun, as chairman of the meeting, said that while admitting the ability of burrs and seeds of like nature to be dispersed by this method, he denied their necessity and disputed their utility. He showed that the sheep burr had not a general distribution, that it was largely a roadside plant, was hardly ever found in fields, and in fact, was very limited in its distribution.