

SUB-EXCURSIONS.

THIRD.—On the 27th May about thirty members and their friends met at the Post Office at the usual hour—2 p.m. Those connected with the geological branch proceeded, under the leadership of Messrs. Ami and Stewart, to examine certain exposures near the Queen's Wharf and Rideau Hall, having with them Professors Bailey and Mathews, of New Brunswick, who had been in attendance at the meetings of the Royal Society. The rest of the party—nineteen in number—preferring the botanical and entomological branches, made a visit to Cave Creek. This is but a small stream and is interesting only from the fact that it disappears under ledges of limestone at a short distance in the rear of Judge Ross's house and re-appears at about an equal distance on the opposite side of the Richmond Road, having an underground course of several hundred feet. The fields and woods in the neighbourhood were explored, and plants and insects collected. About four o'clock the party gathered under a spreading maple to listen to the "talks" of the Leaders. Mr. Fletcher urged the value of botanical studies from an economical as well as scientific standpoint, and explained the object of making collections and the methods which should be pursued in their subsequent study and investigation. He then discussed several of the plants collected during the "outing," pointing out the distinctive features and showing that in many instances the scientific names were descriptive of these characteristics, and that a knowledge of the derivation and meaning of the names was consequently often of considerable assistance in determining species. Mr. Harrington followed with a few remarks on the insects observed. Of these the most conspicuous and handsome were two fine examples of the Luna moth, *Attacus luna*, which had been found by a young lady. *Selandria rosea*, the rose-sawfly or slug, had been seen on bushes in the garden of Judge Ross. Twigs of larch were shown which had been last year attacked by another sawfly, *Nematus erichsonii*, but the insects were apparently not yet ovipositing this season. *Calosoma calidum* was mentioned as the largest Ottawa representative of the Carabidæ, a family of beetles whose habits were briefly explained as predatory and beneficial. Examples of one or two other families were also exhibited,