THE OTTAWA NATURALIST.

September

convinced of her error, but even the youngest member of the class felt the appropriateness of its name, *—Viburnum acerifolium*.

A few days later the Purple-flowering Raspberry was the subject under examination. After two or three other brambles had been named, the students were told that all belonged to the genus *Rubus*. They were then asked to propose a suitable specific name for the plant under immediate consideration, and *Rubus* acerifolius was at once suggested — a more satisfactory name perhaps than *Rubus odoratus*, by which it is known to botanists.

Attention was then called to the fact that the fruit of the Raspberry consists of an aggregation of drupelets, each of which is itself a perfect fruit, —more than one fruit from one flower. The fruit of the Partridge-berry (Mitchella) has on its surface two depressions the significance of which was discovered by a bright boy who suggested that each pit was the place where a flower had been, —one fruit from more than one flower.

Another problem was to interpret the significance of the fleshy teeth of the fruit of the Creeping Wintergreen (*Gaultheria*). After the capsule had been dissected out, it was made clear that these teeth were the lobes of the enlarged calyx. The leader then asked the students to name a fruit cultivated for the sake of its fleshy calyx and was surprised to have a little girl give the apple as an example. On being questioned as to the source of her information, she said that Mr. Macfarlane had the year before called the attention of the students to the fact. She had not forgotten it though twelve months had elapsed.

Another instance of the lasting impressions made by the nature study method of teaching was furnished by a girl of twelve who was asked to tell how a tree should be planted. She described minutely the method illustrated a year ago by Mr. W. T. Macoun, who gave a practical demonstration by planting a little pine tree in the auditorium during the course of his lecture.

There was also a sequel to Mr. R. B. Whyte's talk of last year on the shrubs of Norway Beach, when the characteristics of Poison-ivy were specially emphasized. Some time after, two young men of that locality were picking stones in a field when they came to a hear over which trailed Virginia Creeper. One of them said, "Rather than run the risk of being poisoned, we will

114