

clover, vetches, etc. The names of some of the principal scientists who have solved this problem are: Sir. J. H. Gilbert, who for more than half a century has been associated with Sir John B. Lawes in agricultural research, Wagner, Hellriegel, Willfarth, Frank and Warrington. Their successful work in determining beyond all doubt that the legumes have this power, marks the most important and valuable discovery in agricultural science of the present day. It means practically that the soil-nitrogen, exhausted by the growth of cereals and other farm crops, can be readily and cheaply restored by "green manuring" with one or other of the legumes—their nitrogen for the most part having been appropriated from the atmosphere.

The exact way in which these plants are able to appropriate free nitrogen is not known, but the fact has been ascertained that the assimilation is directly connected with the presence and development of certain tubercles or nodules on the roots. These tubercles contain micro-organisms, whose apparent function it is to absorb the atmospheric nitrogen, present in the interstices of the soil, and convert it into compounds of its host. We have here an excellent example of symbiosis, and one which must in the future prove of immense value to agriculturists and indirectly to the community in general.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF CANADA.

The fourteenth meeting of the Royal Society of Canada will be held in Ottawa on the 15th, 16th and 17th of May, 1895.

In a circular letter received from Dr. J. G. Bourinot, C.M.G., Hon. Secretary of the Royal Society, the members of the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club are invited to contribute papers or articles for the approaching meeting of that Society.

Our President, Mr. F. T. Shutt, has been chosen by Council to represent us on that occasion. Any member of the Club desirous of submitting papers should communicate with him at as early a date as possible, so that the necessary arrangements may be made for their presentation before the proper section.