

REPORT OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL BRANCH.

To the Council of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club :—

In entomological work we have to record some increase of activity. Sub-excursions were held weekly throughout the season, at which at least one of the leaders was always present. While valuable and extensive collections and records were made in nearly all of the orders of insects, the Hymenoptera and Lepidoptera received special attention. A few facts are given regarding the collections in each order.

HYMENOPTERA.—It was announced last year in the report of the branch that a number of species new to Canadian lists had been already collected at Ottawa, and that Abbé Provancher had determined some of the captures to be species new to science. He has since published in "Le Naturaliste Canadien" descriptions of many new species contained in the division Terebrantia, which includes saw-flies, ichneumons, gall-forming, flies, etc. In this extensive division the Ottawa collections have already yielded nearly 100 new species, besides many species not hitherto recorded from Canada, and some of great rarity.

The collections made during the past summer have as yet been only partially classified, but it is found that many species not formerly observed have been captured.

Oryssus Sayi, Westw. was found upon old maple trees near Hull, both emerging from, and ovipositing in, the dead trunk. The life history of these generally rare insects was, we think, not before definitely known. *Xiphydria albicornis* was again common in the city, where it oviposits in our maples, especially attacking the trees which have been newly set out along the streets. *Selandria rosæ*, the rose saw-fly or slug, was unusually abundant. At the recent excursion to Buckingham it was seen in large numbers, and on roses beyond Hull it was very destructive. In the city it did much damage. *Ernophytus maculatus*, the strawberry-sawfly, also appeared to be more common than usual. *Messa hyalina* was bred in large numbers from the galls which cover and disfigure the leaves of the willows which have been planted by some of our citizens.

LEPIDOPTERA.—The season was decidedly a bad one for butterflies and moths. Bright, hot days were few, and when they did occur there