

species which apparently originated accidentally. He says: "Sprengler, an apothecary in Heidleberg, discovered in his medicinal garden in which *Chelidonium majus* was cultivated a new form of *Chelidonium* with divided leaves and laciniate petals. . . . The new species was found to be self-sustaining and in repeated cultural tests has shown no tendency to revert to *C. majus*."

During the discussion Mr. W. T. Macoun stated that among seeds of *C. laciniatum* received from Upsala and grown at the Experimental Farm, only twenty per cent. had proved to be that species, the remainder being *C. majus*. It is, of course, possible that the seed may have been mixed, but if not, this disposes of *C. laciniatum* as a species. Further tests will be made at the Experimental Farm from their own seed.

One of the members having suggested that the fact that the Early Rose and some other varieties of potatoes no longer ripened seeds was an evidence that these varieties were degenerating, it was brought out in discussion that the reverse was the case. The energy which formerly was required to mature the seed now went to increase the size and number of the tubers. Mr. W. T. Macoun expressed the opinion that if by spraying and watering growing potatoes could be carried past the time when the stalks usually dry up a greatly increased crop would be the result as this would give an opportunity for the small tubers to grow and ripen.

A description of an interesting experiment on the vitality of the common buttercup was given by Dr. Ami, details of which appeared in the December number of THE NATURALIST.

The third of the series of meetings in connection with the Botanical Branch of the Club was held at the residence of Mr. H. M. Ami on the evening of Dec. 6th, 1904. There were present Messrs. John Macoun, W. T. Macoun, R. B. Whyte, A. E. Attwood, D. A. Campbell, T. E. Clarke, H. St. Jacques, and Roy Cameron. Mr. E. Stewart, of the Forestry Branch of the Department of the Interior, and Mr. Hamilton, of the Exhibition Division of the Department of Agriculture, were present as guests.

The topic chosen by the chairman for discussion was "Conifers," and he introduced the subject with a brief paper on "A typical young pine forest growing at Ironsides, near Ottawa,"