

the most characteristic of the family. Its wood is so valuable that possibly it has become exterminated in this locality. It ought to be replanted, especially in the large parks at Rockcliffe or Britannia, or if the Government provide for a National Park. It appears to be spreading on Mount Royal Park at Montreal. No doubt the fruit would be appreciated both by squirrels and boys. The bark of this tree is characteristic and peculiar. It breaks up into oblong plates, the ends of which curve outwards, while they cling at the centre. This peels off easily, hence the name, shell-bark or shag-bark.

#### BETULACEÆ.

(Including the Birches and the Hornbeams.)

Of the Birches the most ornamental and therefore the most valuable are the cut-leaved and pendulous or weeping varieties. How many varieties there are, I am not prepared to say, but they all seem related to *B. alba* or *B. populifolia*. Of course these beautiful varieties are of use only on lawns, but they are fairly common about the city. Their lower limbs come too low for them to be used along the street line, to say nothing of how much and how quickly they would be ruined by horses and passers-by.

The Common White Birch, *B. populifolia*, is common at Rockcliffe, and is too easily recognized to need description.

The Yellow Birch, *B. lutea*, also grows at Rockcliffe, but is much less common. It prefers rich, moist woodland. There are several trees in the hollow near where the new artesian well has been sunk. This is a beautiful tree in its native haunts. The bark of the trunk is of a yellowish or silver-grey color, which detaches horizontally in thin filmy layers which curl up like ribbons. In the spring the inner bark is a rich golden yellow. The catkins are upright, sessile, and very short in proportion to their breadth.

Of the Ironwoods the Hop Hornbeam, *Ostrya Virginiana*, is the only species, so far as I know, that is represented in the city. There is one on Gladstone Ave. near Metcalfe St., and several in Major Hill Park on the bank overlooking the pond. It is a tree that is more conspicuous and beautiful in the winter than in the summer, although the peculiar hop-like strobiles on the terminal twigs may attract the attention of some. But in the winter, and when standing all alone, then the tiny graceful birch-like twigs, tipped with bunches of two or three upright catkins, appear in all their native beauty. The trunk also is characteristic. It gives the appearance of strength. The bark is grey and split into numerous partly exfoliated strips, much narrower and tinier than on any other tree.