

years old, which, however, showed a number of secondary rings between the four principal year-rings. The consensus of opinion was that these minor rings seemed to show the record the tree kept in its growth of times of drought and abundant rainfall. This brought up the question, whether the rings in a red beet are of similar origin as those in a tree or not, and as to the difference in structure between that vegetable and similar ones, like the carrot. Another question which was variously answered was, why the tamarack sheds its leaves and other conifers do not. These two questions were given to Messrs. Campbell and J. M. Macoun respectively to look up and report on at the next meeting.

A collection of mounted plants made this year by the writer was shown for inspection in which two specimens proved of some interest, namely, *Gallium verum*, Yellow Bed-straw, which had been found in a very restricted locality by Mr. Whyte twenty-five years ago, and not since then; and *Monarda didyma*, Oswego Tea, from High Falls, Labelle Co., Quebec, new for the district. An interesting collection made by Mr. W. H. Harrington was shown by Dr. Fletcher.

G. EIFRIG.

The second meeting of the Botanical Section was held at the residence of Mr. J. M. Macoun on Dec. 14th, the members present being Messrs. Eifrig, Whyte, Attwood, T. E. Clarke, Campbell and Prof. John Macoun. Some time was spent in examining specimens collected near Ottawa by the Rev. G. Eifrig. Messrs. Campbell and J. M. Macoun read several extracts referring to the falling of the leaves of coniferous trees, the conclusion arrived at being that the foliage-leaves of most conifers are very persistent and may live for several years, but that they do not fall at fixed periods; the leaf cushions keep pace in growth for a long time with the increase in size of the axes. In *Larix* and *Salisburia* the leaves alone are deciduous each autumn, in *Taxodium distichum* the axes that bear them are also deciduous.

The discussion of the structure of a beet-root, begun at the previous meeting, was resumed but no satisfactory conclusion was arrived at.

J. M. M.