

those of the Rural Dean of Lisgar. The work proving too onerous, he resigned in 1903, to take up the position of bursar and steward of St. John's College, Winnipeg, which, with the position, in the same institution, of lecturer in botany and the English Bible, he held until his death.

As a botanist Canon Burman was widely known. An enthusiastic collector, his herbarium of local plants is easily the finest in Manitoba. Not only local plants are represented however. Some five years ago, I well remember a delightful evening of the Manitoba Natural History Society, when Canon Burman showed a splendid collection of Arctic plants.

To know the Canon was to admire and love him. Quiet, unassuming, he was always engaged in work for the benefit of others, as the history of our Humane Society and that of our Children's Aid Society testify.

Some years ago it was found he was suffering from tubercular trouble, and nothing could be done to check its inroads. Just before Christmas I spoke to him and he told me of an intended visit to Texas in January. His illness took a worse turn and he was unable to leave. For several weeks he suffered intensely but with marvellous fortitude and then death intervened.

Truly Canada has reason to mourn that two such men as Dr. Fletcher and Canon Burman—warm personal friends—have been called away within such a short space of time.

J. B. WALLIS.

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#### MEETINGS OF THE BOTANICAL BRANCH.

At the Botanical Branch meeting of February 27th, a discussion on the inter-relation of soils and plants was led by Mr. George H. Clark, sixteen members of the Club being present.

Evidence was presented to illustrate that plants are grouped in nature according to the physical, chemical and biological conditions of the soil. A knowledge of plant relations, range of conditions respecting their habitat, and their habits of growth under those varying conditions, serves the botanist as an index to the range of temperature of the district, the moisture, and the physical, chemical, and, to some extent, the biological conditions of the soil on which the species are found.

"De Candolle's theory of the excretions of plants" and the results of recent experiments and observations pertaining to toxic excretions from the roots of plants were discussed. Experiments in the seed laboratory at Ottawa showed that after making germination test with cereal grains, it was necessary to discard the soil from the boxes before making a subsequent