

EDITORIAL.

The kindly reception accorded to the first number of the OTTAWA NATURALIST, by our members and correspondents, has encouraged us in our labours. There seems to be a unanimous opinion that the change in the time of publication is a step in the path of progress, and it has been especially welcome, as was expected, to non-resident members. In the present number we are able to give the very interesting address delivered by Prof. Macoun when President of the Club last year. There are many points in it well worthy of consideration, and we feel assured that his desire to see erected a museum worthy of Canada will be warmly endorsed by every reader. A number of new members have been elected since the Annual Meeting, but we desire again to urge all to endeavor to obtain among their friends further additions to our membership. The smallness of our annual subscription fee makes it the more imperative that our membership should be large, and that fees should be promptly remitted to the treasurer, in accordance with Rule 15 of the Constitution.

The Excursion Committee has recommended an Excursion to King's Mountain, Chelsea, on Saturday, the 21st of May. Our Excursions during the season will be conducted in accordance with the plan found to work satisfactorily in past years. Prof. Macoun informs us in his address that it is a common custom in English societies similar to our own, for excursion parties to go by rail or waggon to a locality several miles distant from the starting point, and then walk back "across country," collecting along the way. As indicated by him this plan has its advantages, but it seems to us that equally good work can be done under our own system of driving, or taking a boat, or train, both ways, and spending a large portion of the day in systematic collecting in the locality visited. In this manner many pleasant days have been spent by our members and their friends, and many important facts in connection with the Natural History of neighbouring districts have been discovered and recorded. A not unimportant advantage of returning together by conveyance, instead of in small scattering groups on foot, is the opportunity afforded for instructive conversation regarding the various interesting occurrences or collections,