

SUB-EXCURSIONS.

No. 1. The first Sub-Excursion of the season was held on Saturday afternoon, April 16, to Rockcliffe. The President Prof. Prince and Messrs. Wilson, Halkett and Fletcher, were present as leaders. The party was rather small, but a most enjoyable and instructive afternoon was spent in the woods at Rockcliffe, around Hemlock Lake and at Beechwood. Flowers were few but on sheltered warm knolls, particularly near the gates of Beechwood cemetery, several kinds of flowers were found. Mr. Wilson explained the nature of the rocks found *in situ* as well as of the various boulders observed. Mr. Halkett captured many a hapless insect, spider, or reptile, and descanted admiringly on their beauties. Dr. Fletcher drew attention to the staminate and pistillate flowers of the hazel, poplars and red maples. On one tree of aspen both staminate and pistillate flowers were found. This is an unusual occurrence. Owing to the remarkably early season, many plants were found in blossom which, as a rule, do not occur till much later in the season. The swamp alder, the silver and red maples, the American elm, the aspen and the large-toothed aspen were in full flower. The hazel catkins were shedding their pollen and the little crimson tufts of pistillate flowers were very conspicuous. At Rockcliffe, fresh green fronds were found of *Polypodium vulgare* and *Aspidium marginale*, which had passed the winter beneath the snow. *Capsella Bursa-pastoris* caught by the winter before it had expanded its flowers, now pushed up its head again, to go on with its work of life after 6 months' sleep. On the sunny knoll near Beechwood, *Hepatica acutiloba* with pink, blue, and white flowers was found in profusion, together with *Claytonia Caroliniana*, one or two fully expanded flowers of *Erythronium Americanum* and sturdy clumps of *Caulophyllum thalictroides*. One or two less advanced but open flowers of *Uvularia grandiflora* and *Dicentra Cucullaria* were also found and red and white trilliums just opening. In the swamp at the foot of the hill *Salix discolor* was in full bloom. In all 18 different plants were collected in flower, a surprising number for the 16th of April.—J. F.