

WITH THE FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB, ROCKLIFFE
WOODS, SEPT. 28TH, 1907.

A grey day, with just enough of a suspicion of cold in the air to make the blood tingle, and give intense enjoyment to a walk in the woods, greeted the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club at their meeting at Rockliffe, Saturday, Sept. 28th. The "Father" of the Club, Dr. James Fletcher, was there, with ever abundant store of information on nature lore; Dr. Sinclair, Vice-Principal of the Normal School, with his large family of Normal School students, with their intelligent, bright faces; Mr. Arthur Gibson, of the Experimental Farm, and Mr. Power, of the Normal School, a new addition and a most helpful one, and about sixty interested followers of Nature Study and lovers of "God's great out of doors."

The meeting place was the pavilion, and having strolled through the woods, the "round up" was held at the south end of MacKay's Lake (Hemlock Lake). Here the stores of flowers, plants, and insects were brought and commented upon, and valuable lessons learned from wood, tree and flower.

Dr. Sinclair, in a few words introduced Dr. James Fletcher as the "Father" of the Club, and remarked that Cicero's celebrated quotation might be used here, as there were so many generals to call upon. In speaking of the different trees, Dr. Fletcher called attention to the plentiful flowers on the maple, the only specimen of the beech to be seen, the ash, the locust, and others in the neighborhood. The interdependence of the animal and vegetable world was commented upon. The last spring, the cold had killed the insects which should have fertilized the trees and flowers, the birds had suffered and died for want of insects to feed upon. Dr. Fletcher spoke also of his success in the destruction of the Miller moth, by the application of intense cold, which was a pest to flour millers. He showed the wise provision of Nature for the trees and shrubs for the approaching winter, after their leaves drop in the autumn, and that of the evergreens and those having peculiarly shaped foliage which stood the strain of the winds and snow. Mr. Power on being called upon spoke on the same subject, and told in a humorous strain of the dearth of fruit at one time in Australia, which resulted from the loss of bees because there were too many mice, and too many mice because there were not enough cats, and too few cats because there were not enough old maids to care for them. Mr. Power spoke very highly of the great good the Club was doing in Nature Study and the great assistance it was to Normal School students. Mr. Arthur Gibson showed specimens of the