

that each species had its own peculiar adaptation for the successful distribution of its spores. In one case, viz., that of the common polypore which grows on the sides of trees, it was admirably shown by an excellent specimen that the vertical position of the spore-bearing tubes is essential to distribution of spores and that when the position of the fruiting body had been altered by the falling of the tree that a re-adjustment of the plane of the fruiting body through 90° had taken place the succeeding season. Another specimen exhibited showed the effects of the mycelium in changing the colour of the wood fibres from the normal shade to a brilliant green.

During the discussion which followed Mr. Eastham's address Mr. Gussow referred to several peculiar uses of the tissue produced by the fruiting bodies of certain fungi that grow on wood. He cited an instance which had come under his own observation where the silk-like fibres from the under or spore-breeding surface of a polypore had been used in the making of a remarkably good cap. He also referred to the peculiar way in which rude fire-arms were discharged at the time of the Thirty Years' War in Europe. Some of the dry and spongy fibres collected from the fruiting bodies of certain wood fungi were used somewhat after the manner of a fuse. This was ignited by sparks from a steel and flint and "eventually" the gun went off.

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NOTES ON THE OCCURRENCE OF INTERESTING FORMS OF CYPERACEÆ IN QUEBEC.

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Very little is known of the distribution of our local Cyperaceæ. Being of slight or no economic value, these plants are of no interest to the average man, and even botanists themselves frequently overlook them.

Apart from any utilitarian consideration, the sedges play an important part in nature. It is by means of this type of organism that plant life takes hold of marshes, shoals, river-banks and damp places generally. If the finality of the multitude of individuals appears obvious, that of the immense number of species is yet an unsolved problem. It is to be remembered that the study of the *Carex* species alone, numbering about 1,000, constitutes a whole science by itself, and demands the labour of numerous specialists.

The object of these notes is to make known several species, or varieties, of this family, collected by the writer, in Quebec, which are, he believes, mostly new for that province, if not for Canada.