

## LECTURES.

On December 12th, 1911, Mr. Alex. McNeill, President of the Club, addressed the members, in the Assembly Hall of the Normal School, on "Some Insect Friends and Foes." The attendance was good and the address was much enjoyed by those present.

Mr. McNeill explained that "Insect Friends and Foes" was not intended primarily as an entomological lecture. It was intended, in fact, as a suggestion for a more rational educational training for young people. The lecturer took the ground that inasmuch as physical strength could be developed only by the exercise of the muscle and intellectual strength by the exercise of the mental faculties, therefore, that was the best instrument of education that offered the larger number of opportunities for physical and mental exercise. Books and the ordinary routine of school work offered few opportunities for mental exercise within the scope of the immature intellect. Books were indeed indispensable in all advanced intellectual development, but as an instrument for education with children they had proved entirely inadequate. To illustrate the advantages that natural science offers, the lecturer introduced a large number of lantern slides giving numerous interesting phases of insect life and their co-relation with the every-day affairs of the fruit grower and farmer. The relation of insects to the pollination of flowers was illustrated, with diagrams of the flowers of the Clover, Iris, Ladies' Slipper and Yucca. The usefulness of the hymenoptera in the pollination of the apple blossom was illustrated by several pictures.

The development of the ordinary codling moth from the full grown larva, found all too frequently in Canadian apples, to the perfect moth, was given as an easy exercise and a most interesting one showing the various changes in the life of the insect. Reference was made in connection with each of this series of pictures to indicate the ease with which this could be turned to use as an instrument of education with even the younger children of public schools, and, of course, it was pointed out that the pupils never outgrew the problems upon which they could exercise their observing and reasoning faculties; so that from the very youngest pupil to the most mature student, field-naturalists' excursions offered material for the most rational intellectual exercise.

Attention was also drawn to the Field-Naturalists' Club excursions in developing a love for outdoor life, with enthusiasm for pure air, pure water and sunshine.