

SUB-EXCURSION TO BLUEBERRY POINT.

John Burroughs says in one of his delightful little books that April is a good month to be born in, or to make any initiatory step, in fact. It gives you a good start, he says. Certainly the Field-Naturalists felt on assembling at Blueberry Point, Aylmer, on the afternoon of April 28th that an excellent start had been made.

It was the first outing of the season, unfavourable weather having cancelled previous arrangements for a trip to Rockcliffe. Almost 150 persons met at Blueberry Point, however, on the 28th, when the weather conditions were ideal. Some of the leaders of the various departments being absent the field-body resolved itself into very informal groups and devoted the afternoon mainly to gathering the trailing arbutus and hepatica. The latter in the blue, pink and white varieties, was found on every side dotting the brown sides of hillocks; the arbutus, although not properly in bloom, concealed many fragrant buds for the more patient seekers.

The unusually mild weather prevailing during the past winter, while probably quite acceptable to the majority of people, has had the effect of limiting swampy areas this spring, almost banishing the elusive salamander and other things that creep or scuttle about in lone lands—and so greatly disappointing the members interested in zoology.

The club members reassembling about five o'clock, the president, Mr. W. J. Wilson, having congratulated the club upon the successful nature of its first outing, asked Mr. Andrew Halkett to address the assemblage. A very informing talk was then given by Mr. Halkett who had in spite of adverse conditions secured a number of specimens, including the larva of mosquitoes, a wood-frog, contributed by Mr. Lemieux, water spiders, a centipede, beetles and ants. The lower animal life was shown to be very busily occupied preparing for the fuller life of the summer months.

Mr. A. MacNeill imparted then in a pleasantly original manner some subjects for thought, and touched happily upon the basic principle of the Naturalists' outings—the aim to come directly in touch with Nature in her manifold fascinating forms instead of