

developed pollen unfit for fertilization. In the vicinity of Ottawa four hybrids between different *Viola* species have been found this spring.

The occurrence of *Antennaria canadensis* (Everlasting) in the district visited induced Dr. Malte to deal briefly with the phenomenon called parthenogenesis, i.e. the faculty of egg-cells of certain genera and species to develop the new normal individuals without the assistance of male organs. He pointed out that parthenogenesis in plants was in fact first discovered in a species of *Antennaria*, it having been observed that in this genus, which is dioecious, the male plants generally are extremely rare; and he also referred to a number of other parthenogenetic genera, such as *Taraxacum* and *Hieracium*, and finished his remarks by calling attention to the remarkable investigations on the parthenogenetic development of eggs of sea-urchins and starfishes, which, during recent years, have been carried out by scientists in the United States and France.

Mr. McGillivray collected specimens of gneiss of a typical gray colour, and also in a decayed state; samples of limestone, red granite, sandstone and a kremoloid; and he also had with him to show specimens of different kinds of minerals which he had previously collected on the island at Chelsea and at the Ironsides mine.

Except in stagnant pools, there has been for years past at the localities which the naturalists have visited, little opportunity for the study of aquatic forms of life, but the stream at Stittsville afforded excellent facilities for such study. The brook is full of small cyprinoids and other kinds of small fishes, besides a great variety of aquatic invertebrates. The fishes netted or observed were these: specimens of Red-bellied Dace (*Chrosomus erythrogaster*), a Minnow (*Leuciscus neogæus*), a small specimen of the Common Sucker (*Catostomus commersonii*), a few specimens of the Brook Stickleback (*Eucalia inconstans*), a specimen of a Darter presumably the Johnny Darter (*Boleosoma nigrum*) or perhaps its variety, the Tessellated Darter (*Boleosoma nigrum olmstedii*), but the specimen was lost before it could be examined; and numerous specimens of a Miller's Thumb (a cottoid) were seen in the stream, but none were netted. One or two specimens of a Crayfish (*Cambarus*), larvæ of a Caddis-fly with their tubes made of broken pieces of wood, one or two tiny fresh-water mussels, and various other aquatic invertebrates were also found in the brook.

The excursions of the season have been a great success, every Saturday has been fair, and the last held, at Stittsville, proved to be one of the most enjoyable and instructive.

A. H.