

REPORT TO THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF CANADA.

(Read at the 6th General Meeting, May, 1887.)

It is again my privilege to report to you that the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, which I have the honor of representing, still continues to fulfil satisfactorily the objects of its organization, by the fostering of a love for nature and the working up and taking permanent records of all facts connected with the Natural History of the Ottawa District; and this in such a way as to induce all, and particularly those now securing their education in our local institutions, to direct some of their attention to these most interesting and important pursuits. With the latter object in view special efforts were made by the Council of the Club to arrange for the delivery during the past winter of Free Elementary Lectures in all branches of Natural History, not only before the members of the Club, but also, whenever opportunity offered, in the Public Schools. It was a great encouragement to find how popular these lectures proved, and how the attendance steadily increased day by day, as they became better known.

Some important changes were made in the working of the Club at the beginning of the current year; the most notable of these was the publication of a monthly magazine, instead, as heretofore, of the yearly volume of Transactions. This magazine, THE OTTAWA NATURALIST (copies of which have been regularly sent to your honorable Society as issued), contains the papers and the reports of the leaders in the different sections, which were read at the Soirées held during the past winter, and also accounts of all the excursions and sub-excursions held during the month previous to its issue, as well as notices of all matters of interest to the members for the coming month.

The sub-excursions referred to above differ from the general monthly excursions of the whole Club, in being under the direction of one or more of the leaders in the section, and are in reality working parties or classes, those present devoting their whole attention to their own specialties under the guidance of teachers whose duty it is to show the best mode of collecting and studying, and who, during the present year, will deliver short lectures in the field upon the objects collected each afternoon. This plan, as far as we are able to judge from the present season, has been eminently successful.