

## MONOTROPA UNIFLORA.

*To the Editor of the Ottawa Naturalist:—*

DEAR SIR: In the June number of the *Ottawa Naturalist* I notice some views expressed by Mr. Fletcher on the growth of *Monotropa*. I feel assured that his views are correct. In the summer of 1873 I was searching in a hardwood bush for roots of *Aplectrum hienude*, when I found several bunches of roots which I at once took to be those of *M. uniflora*, but there was no appearance of flowering stems. I also observed that they were securely attached to roots, about three-sixteenths of an inch in diameter, of what I took to be maple, but which may have been beech.

There could be no doubt about the parasitic attachment. At first I imagined that the flowering stems had been plucked, but on examination this was evidently not the case as no signs of injury could be found; moreover it was in the month of July, too early in the season for the flowers to have appeared. I marked the place carefully, and drove in several pegs beside roots which were but little disturbed. I revisited the spot towards the end of September, after I had found several in flower, but found all just as I had left it; not a plant was to be seen. In September of the following year I happened to be driving within a short distance of the locality, so tying my horse I went carefully over the ground and found the flowers so numerous that from a small area I could have gathered a large basketful. From want of time I did not carry the investigation further, but this was enough to convince me of the accuracy of Mr. Fletcher's statements.

WM. BRODIE.

TORONTO, 3rd June, 1887.

[NOTE.—With regard to the above interesting subject, upon consulting Prof. Macoun, he states that he agrees with the general tenor of Mr. Brodie's letter, but adds with regard to the host-plant, that he is sure that *Monotropa* grows upon the roots of other plants besides the Beech, as he has found it in many districts where that tree does not occur. In British Columbia he found it common in Coniferous woods where no deciduous trees grew. It is also abundant in the cold woods of the Gaspé peninsular, on Anticosti, and in some parts of Nova Scotia where the Beech is unknown. He is of the opinion that valuable information would undoubtedly be gained by carrying out the experiment suggested in the June number of the *Naturalist* of growing these plants from seed.—ED.]