

## REPORTS OF SOIREES.

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There is no part of the work of the Field Naturalists' Club upon which more care is bestowed than on the preparation of the programme of winter lectures, and it is doubtful whether in the history of the Club there has been a better programme than that offered for 1907-8. It is through its lectures and informal talks that the Club comes most directly in touch with the public as the audiences are made up in great part of those who while not members of the Club are specially interested in and attracted by the subjects upon which addresses are given. The opening evening is always made as attractive as possible and this year short talks were given on "Personal Experiences in the Field during the past season" by five of the Club's oldest members, in the Assembly Room of the Normal School, December 10th. Dr. J. F. White the Principal of the Normal School in a short address of welcome complimented the Club on the good work it was doing and assured its members of the hearty co-operation of himself and his staff in this work. He was followed by Dr. S. B. Sinclair whose "personal experience" described a fire which had been neglected near where he had spent the summer in the Parry Sound district and which after it had spread until it seemed to be beyond control was systematically and heroically attacked by himself and seven neighbors and after five days work was stamped out, although everything was as dry as tinder and the wind blew almost continually. He learned there that fire usually travels very slowly, if at all, during the night and that sand extinguishes fire as effectively as water and is usually much more easily obtainable. A full report of Dr. Sinclair's address, which was illustrated by several beautiful lantern slides, will be published in the March number of *The Canadian Forestry Journal*.

Dr. Fletcher who can carry his audience with him to whatever place he may be describing and make them see not only the place but what he saw when there, took them to the tops of some of the highest mountains in British Columbia and told them of the elusive butterflies and other insects he had seen and captured there. Veritable "Mountain Sprites", only to see them in their wind-swept homes amply repaid the enthusiast who went in search of them. His address in a condensed form will be published in the March number of *THE OTTAWA NATURALIST*.