

SUB-EXCURSIONS.

No. 1.—The first Sub-Excursion of the season was held on Saturday, 5th May, and was under the direction of the President. The lateness of the present spring affected the attendance, scarcely a dozen members appearing at the appointed hour.

The place chosen for investigation was Beechwood, always one of the first localities to reward those seeking for early spring flowers. Eleven species only were collected, which were named and described by Mr. Whyte. The *Liliaceae* being specially examined and explained.

No. 2 was held to the Beaver Meadow, Hull, on 12th May. It was a lovely warm afternoon, and the botanists turned out well. When the party reassembled to hear the addresses of the leaders 23 were found to be present. The baskets were well filled and provided ample material for the leaders' addresses.

Mr. Robert Whyte gave an interesting address upon the plants collected and drew particular attention to the *Cruciferae* or Cress family, all of which might be easily recognized. These plants are all characterized by their cross-shaped flowers, and many of them have a pungent taste. All are edible and wholesome. Prof. Macoun also spoke at request of the leaders upon the best way to study the willows. The different divisions and groups of the *Salices* were explained, and the best way to collect and study these different plants was explained in a simple and attractive manner. The Mosses and Liverworts were also referred to, and the members were urged to collect them.

Mr. Fletcher then followed as Entomological Leader, and spoke at some length upon some of the malformations found upon plants known as Galls. These, he explained, were formed by an interesting group of insects, of which Mr. Harrington and he had made a special study. He also advised the members to decide at once what line of study they were going to take up, and get their apparatus in order. Frequently valuable specimens in all branches of natural history were lost or destroyed from the collector not having at hand the proper apparatus for preserving them. Speaking of the branches in which he was a leader, he said that bottles, boxes and cyanide bottles could be procured, by those wishing to study insects, of Mr. Henry Watters, Sparks St.; gauze for nets from Messrs. Crawford Ross & Co., and