

## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

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(Delivered December 15th, 1903.)

*Members of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, Ladies and Gentlemen :—*

Although this is but the 24th Annual Address which a president of this Club has had the opportunity to deliver, the 25th anniversary of the Club's organization will have passed before the next president has prepared the 25th Address. The Council of the Club has therefore thought it appropriate to celebrate the 25th anniversary at this time, and bring together as many of the original members as possible. While some of the first members are dead, it is pleasing to know that all of the original Council of the Club are alive ; that all of them, with the exception of one, the Hon. Joseph Martin, are living in Ottawa, and that nearly all of them are here to-night.

On the 10th of March, 1879, forty men assembled in the rooms of the Literary and Scientific Society to organize a club which would promote the study of Natural History in the Ottawa district. At this meeting the club was formed and given the name of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, which it has creditably borne ever since.

The officers for that year were :—

President : Lieut.-Col. White.

Vice-Presidents : J. Fletcher, W. D. LeSueur, B.A.

Committee : W. P. Anderson, C.E., W. R. Billings,  
W. H. Harrington, J. Martin, H. B. Small, M.D.

The Club had a very successful season, and by the close of the year the membership had swelled to 90. This year it is 254.

On looking over the Transactions of the Club and the seventeen volumes of THE OTTAWA NATURALIST, one is impressed by the enthusiasm of the members all the way through. How few clubs, societies or associations of twenty-five years' standing can show so fine a record? There is a reason for this, however. Once a man becomes an enthusiastic student of Nature he is always an enthusiast, and we have many men of this stamp in our Club of whom we are justly proud. We know so little about