

## MEETING OF BOTANICAL BRANCH.

The first meeting of the Botanical Branch of the Field Naturalists' Club for the season 1907-8, was held Thursday, December 5th, at the house of Rev. G. Eifrig. There were present: Messrs. Attwood, Blackadar, Campbell, Whyte, Dr. Fletcher, and the undersigned.

The chairman exhibited mounted specimens of some of our rarer plants, as *Calypso borealis*, found June 12th, 1907, plentifully near High Falls, Que.; *Gentiana crinita*, of a darker blue than most years; *Spiranthes cerulea*, very luxuriant this year at the only locality where these two species are found in the vicinity of Ottawa; *Lycopodium inundatum*, *Habenaria obtusata*, *Lobelia Dortmanna*, these three from Algonquin Park, but the last found by Dr. Fletcher also, at Meech Lake, near Ottawa. *Habenaria blephariglottis* from Mer Bleue, *Lonicera hirsuta*, etc. Of the last named it was remarked that it is very rare in the Ottawa district. It was found many years ago near South March, Carleton County. It is, however, abundant at Nepigon, north of Lake Superior, and succeeds well under cultivation. It is difficult to propagate except from seed or from offsets from the roots.

The illustrated work on farm weeds by Clark, Fletcher and Criddle, recently issued by the seed commissioner's office, was examined and discussed. A copy had been kindly furnished to each member of the section by seed commissioner Clark, and all expressed unstinted praise and admiration of the way this highly practical, useful and at the same time beautiful work had been conceived and executed. The colored plates of the weeds and seeds are a revelation in their life-likeness and exactness. It is a work of which the Department of Agriculture may well be proud. All expressed their gratitude to Mr. Clark for his kindness.

Dr. Fletcher exhibited a specimen of the large and remarkable sclerotium of the *Polyporus tuberaster*. This brought to light a bit of nice original investigation successfully conducted by the Doctor. From time to time these black, hard balls, rubberlike in appearance and heavy, had been sent to the Experimental Farm from the West, with the question: What is it? They were always found several inches under ground, mostly adhering to or in the neighborhood of some roots of willows, poplars, etc. No satisfactory answer could for a long time be given, till it occurred to Dr. Fletcher to insert a notice in some western papers, asking that these things be sent to him in a fresh state. This was done and he planted several of them