

REPORT TO THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF CANADA,

Read at the Fifth General Meeting, May, 1886.

In presenting to your Honourable Society the Fourth Report from the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, the Council has great pleasure in being able to say that its work has been carried on with increased and gratifying success. The Club has at present over 170 ordinary and seven corresponding members, making it numerically one of the strongest Scientific Societies in the Dominion; and as regards original work performed by the members, it can compare favourably with any similar society.

The usual Excursions to places of interest in the vicinity were held at intervals during the summer, and many valuable facts concerning the Natural History of this district were recorded.

Much useful work was also accomplished at the Sub-excursions which were held on Saturday afternoons to points in the immediate neighbourhood of the city. These Sub-excursions are of the character of out-door classes, and are conducted with a view to enable the younger and less experienced members to study the different branches under the guidance of the appointed leaders, whose duty it is to give any assistance and explanation that may be necessary.

During the winter six Soirees were held. One was an evening devoted to the microscope, at which short papers were read and slides exhibited illustrative of the different subjects; while at the others the following papers were read:—"The President's Address," Mr. W. H. Harrington; "The Black Bear," Mr. W. P. Lett; "Water Crystallization Effected by Magnetism," Mr. E. Ollum, (Pembroke); "A New Departure in the Study of Minerals," Rev. C. F. Marsan; "Ottawa Dragon Flies," Mr. T. J. MacLaughlin.

In addition, there were Reports from the Leaders, of the work done during the year in the various departments of Natural History, and notes by members. These, as well as the papers read, were followed by discussions of an interesting nature, which are a distinctive feature of the Soirees.

Afternoon lectures were also given during the winter on the following subjects:—

Entomology.—Three by Mr. Harrington, two by Mr. Fletcher.