

Brunswick was *red* spruce proper (*P. rubra*). Mr. Stewart enquired if it was known that black spruce grew any merchantable size anywhere. No one had ever heard of black spruce making merchantable wood.

Prof. Macoun had collected the three spruces at Eastman's Springs, near the Mer Bleue. In the latter bog the black spruce was common. He had noted a *law* in the fruiting of spruces, namely, that white spruce always had the top cones on the tips of the branches hanging down; red spruce had them half-way down; whilst black spruce had its cones close to the trunk, and these stay on for ten years, and even over twenty years. White spruce lose their cones soonest, red next. You will generally find the cones of the white spruce tree on the ground. Pollination in spruces was also discussed by Prof. Macoun. He stated that whereas the tops of spruce trees were often crowded with cones, as much as a bushel at the very top, the lower limbs of the tree were covered with pollen.

Regarding the character of colour of the wood of the spruces, it was noted that the wood of the white spruce was white, that of the black spruce more resinous and hence darker, while the colour of the wood of the red spruce was very near that of the black, hence the term "black spruce" given to red spruce in New Brunswick and elsewhere. In the discussion, Messrs. Campbell, Clarke, Attwood and others took part. Through the kindness of Prof. D. P. Penhallow, of the Botanical Laboratory of McGill University, Montreal, Mr. Ami was able to show, with the aid of the microscope, thin sections of the three spruces discussed during the evening. Microscopical sections revealed the structure of wood beautifully, and marked differences were observed. The microscopical test was always crucial and proved most satisfactory.

WHAT IS NATURE STUDY?

Putting the definition of the Nature Study movement in one concrete sentence, I should state it as follows: "The Nature Study movement is the outgrowth of an effort to put the child into contact and sympathy with its own life."

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