

plained how the limestone, found along the lake shore, formed in deep water, and the sandstone, further back on higher land, in shallow water with the shale intermediate. An exceptionally fine specimen of sandstone, made of tiny round pebbles cemented together by pressure, was found, and an interesting piece of fossil rock composed almost entirely of snails.

The birds, insects and snails were looked after by Mr. A. Halkett of the Fisheries Museum and Mr. Winterberg of the Geological Survey. Among the birds Mr. Halkett noted the oriole, kingbird, bobolink and song sparrow. The yellow swallow-tail butterfly was seen and a number of small insects and larvæ collected, including the destructive cutworm.

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STITTSVILLE. The excursion to Stittsville on June 14th was the last arranged for by the council for the summer season, and the afternoon's outing was much enjoyed by the goodly number of excursionists. The locality proved to be a rich field for the collector and observer.

Various species of plants were collected under the leadership of the botanists, observations were made of rock formations, and a winding stream visited by some of the members proved to be a regular natural aquarium for the general zoologist.

Mr. L. H. Newman, president of the club, named most of the plants which had been collected during the outing. Among these he showed the tall meadow-rue, bunch-berry, mouse-ear chickweed, silvery cinquefoil, small-flowered crowfoot, star-flower, lady's slipper, clintonia, dwarf raspberry, mitre-wort, twin-flower, cleavers, anemone, and a number of different sedges. He referred to the abundance of silvery cinquefoil and mouse-ear chickweed on the knolls and ridges, where the soil was lighter and inclined to be sandy. This was a good illustration of plant adaptation.

Referring to specimens of *Viola selkirkii* collected during the afternoon, Dr. Malte gave a brief account of the seed formation in the stemless violets. It was pointed out that, as a rule, the showy spring flowers are not able to produce seed, this function being taken over by so-called cleistogamous flowers, i.e. insignificant bird-like flowers which are self-fertilized automatically without being opened. These cleistogamous flowers behave very differently in different species, and offer very good characters for their identification. Only occasionally the spring flowers are fertilized, either by pollen from the same species or from other ones. In the latter case the result will be the production of hybrids, characterized by a large per cent. of un-