

## EXCURSIONS.

Heavy rain made it necessary to cancel the first excursion of the season which was to have been to Rockliffe. The following Saturday, however, May 2nd, though the weather was threatening, a surprisingly large number of members and friends of the Club went to Beechwood. Owing to the lateness of the season, none but the very earliest of the Spring flowers were found, and for the same reason the insects seen were few in number. Mr. Eifrig, who led the ornithologists, recorded 21 species of birds and noted their numbers. They were: One brown creeper, about 50 bronzed grackles, 10 red-winged blackbirds, 5 chipping sparrows, 2 kingfishers, 5 crows, silent and breeding, 5 song sparrows, about 75 tree swallows, 2 meadow larks, 25 robins and one nest with 2 eggs, 2 bluebirds, 1 flicker, 5 juncos, 25 golden-crowned kinglets, 1 cowbird, 1 downy woodpecker, 1 bittern, 4 myrtle warblers, 1 purple finch, 3 bluejays and 2 white-throated sparrows. Under stones, bark and pieces of wood some beetles and hymenopterous insects were collected. The former were common ground beetles which may generally be collected in such places at this time of year. A large number of *Halisidota* were noted under stones and some millipedes and spiders were collected by the entomologists. A fine *Lycosa* was found by Mr. Letourneau. These stout, hairy spiders, popularly known as "running spiders", make conspicuous holes in the ground in which they live. Two specimens of a salamander (*Plethodon erythronotus cinereus*) were collected.

Those interested in geology examined the Utica shales along the road leading to Beechwood and in the woods north of the road, but no fossils were found. Keefer Bluff, at the entrance to Beechwood, was next examined and here a number of fossils were collected by different members of the party. These limestones are of the Black River formation which produces excellent stone for building purposes. The characteristic coral *Tetradium fibratum*, was found in abundance.

The succession here, if complete, would be in ascending order, Black River, Trenton and Utica, but the Utica is really lower than the Black River, though originally there were 600 feet or more of Trenton limestone between them. The present condition was brought about by a fault or break which has caused the Trenton and Utica to sink down about 700 feet.

About 5 o'clock the excursionists met at the entrance to Beechwood Cemetery where short talks were given by Messrs. Attwood, Halkett, Eifrig and Criddle.

J. M. M.