

BOTANY.

MEETINGS OF THE BOTANICAL BRANCH.

The sixth meeting was held at the residence of Mr. D. A. Campbell, on the evening of May 15th. He exhibited a large number of mounted specimens of plants with the object of illustrating how leaves seem to vary according to their environment. He held that where light is intercepted by water or by the crowding of plants, there is a tendency for leaves to subdivide. Prof. Macoun was inclined to hold that leaf-division indicated relationship rather than the effect of environment. In support of this, he mentioned the fact that the first leaves of the Horse Radish are much dissected, even in the driest soil. In the course of the discussion, this principle was enunciated: Generalize from not to facts.

As an aid to those who wish to become acquainted with the different species of violets, the information was given by Dr. Fletcher that at the Experimental Farm he had now growing all the recognized species of this locality, as well as some which had not been described. In addition, fine clumps could be seen of several other species from different parts of Canada and the United States. In all he had about 30 named species, many of these at the present time in full flower.

As far as known, all our wild plums are *Prunus nigra* and not *P. Americana* as was once supposed. The points of difference between the two species may be indicated in tabular form.

Prunus nigra.

1. Sepals serrate or serrulate.
2. Petals white, becoming pink.
3. Leaves crenulate-serrate.
4. Fruit with no bloom.

Prunus Americana.

- Sepals entire.
- Petals white, not becoming pink.
- Leaves sharply toothed.
- Fruit with a white bloom.

Prof. Macoun mentioned that he had found the Shell-bark Hickory at Pointe du Chene, the locality recorded in the "Flora Ottawaensis" many years ago. Dr. Fletcher stated that it grew not only there but also in greater abundance at Casselman, Ont., 30 miles from Ottawa.

Dr. Fletcher, who had just returned from a trip to Hamilton, showed some remarkable sports of *Trillium grandiflorum* which,