

quail, woodcock and rabbit, and affording nesting sites to innumerable thrashers, veeeries, chewinks, catbirds and rose-breasted grosbeaks. One of the most interesting of these twiners is the Wild Yam, *Dioscorea villosa*, whose knotted root-stocks in many places lie thickly matted a few inches below the surface. It is a graceful, slender twiner with heart-shaped, pointed leaves and small greenish-yellow flowers. The fruiting capsules are conspicuous in drooping racemes, persisting after the leaves have fallen. The plant seems to be restricted to a few of these block-soiled ravines, but, in those in which it does grow, it is the most abundant of the twiners. The soil in which it grows is so light that the root-stocks of the *Dioscorea*, as well as the roots of many shrubs and brambles, are readily removed without the aid even of a trowel. Its stems are frequently intertwined with those of *Celastrus*, *Smilax herbacea* and *S. rotundifolia*, while *Euonymus Americanus* covers the ground, its crimson pods with their scarlet arils being highly ornamental in the autumn.

*Dioscorea villosa* is reported as being rare in Ontario. The writer would be glad to hear through THE OTTAWA NATURALIST, or otherwise, of its occurrence elsewhere.

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#### NOTES.

In the removal to Toronto of Dr. S. B. Sinclair, late Vice-Principal of the Normal School, the Club loses from the ranks of its active membership one who, for a number of years past, has taken a keen and enthusiastic interest in our work. It is almost entirely due to Dr. Sinclair that the happy and important relationship that exists between the Club and the students of the Normal School to-day, has been brought about. He has placed before each successive class the benefits to be derived from our excursions and lecture courses and taken no small part in helping the Executive to make these occasions of real value to his students. It would be hard to over-estimate his influence on these future teachers in our Public Schools, in thus awakening and encouraging in them a love for Nature Study.

It is not only in this good work that Dr. Sinclair has taken an active part. For many years he was our Librarian and for several terms our esteemed President, directing and assisting in a most helpful way in all matters that served to promote the objects of the Club in this city. We shall miss greatly his genial, stimulating presence from our gatherings, and it is with much regret that we part with him as our coadjutor. Our best wishes