

the same size as the average Shield Fern (e.g., the Spinulose or the Marginal), but the texture of its frond is far more delicate; the sori are oblong, but being placed along the twisting veinlets of the pinnules they usually curve bow-wise into a horse-shoe shape. The indusium opens along one side as the spores ripen. The stipe of the Lady Fern is often reddish in colour.

A wood of maple, beech and hemlock some 5 miles out from Port Hope forms the west end of the rolling country I have before referred to; through the midst of it between springy and steep high banks flows a stream; the wood has many deep rich hollows of peat and leaf-mould; it is luxuriant with plant life, having an unusual range of violets and lilies and some uncommon orchids, such as Hooker's Rein-orchid and the Showy Orchid. For a small wood whose greatest diameter is perhaps half a mile, it is quite the richest in ferns that I know. And that not merely in number of species but in actual quantity; with hardly an exception, the ferns that occur there at all fairly run riot within its shelter. Observing the order in which the ferns are treated, besides the Oak Fern, the Maidenhair and the Bracken which in congenial surroundings abound in the wood, there are all three of the largest Spleenworts; the Lady Fern and the Silvery Spleenwort are abundant, some plants and patches of wonderful size; the oblong fruit-clusters of the latter with the indusium silvery-white until the spores ripen make it easily recognized; it fruits freely, the oblong clusters standing out obliquely from the midvein of the pinnule, suggestive of a small fish's backbone. The third species I have found there is the Narrow-leaved Spleenwort, which fruits even more freely and in the same peculiar way; the sori, however, are larger, cylindrical rather than flatly oblong; the frond is of a delicate texture, the pinnae are simple and entire, in the form of a long tapering acuminate pennant; in the fertile fronds the pinnae are much contracted and so closely do the sori stand together that the whole under surface forms an unbroken series of contiguous cylinders of spore cases. The fern is far from common and in all this wood there is only one small colony about a square yard in extent. In August, 1909, I was fortunate enough to find two other stations for the Narrow-leaved Spleenwort, one near Lanark and the other near Otty Lake between Perth and the Rideau. A peculiar feature of the Narrow-leaved Spleenwort is its frequent companionship with the Goldie's Shield Fern. In Niagara Glen below the Whirlpool Rapids, both plants are found together in the rich leaf-mould and peat where the ground is swampy, and here in this little wood near Port Hope within a few yards of the little patch of *Asplenium angustifolium* were plants of the Goldie's Fern. The