

material and prevented his section from doing any work in the usual locality. Messrs. Gibson and Young reported the season a backward one, as they had taken very few species of insects. Two species of butterflies, the Spring Blue and the Early Native White were observed for the first time this year.

Rev. Dr. Blackader and Mr. Clarke spoke of the plants found. Dr. Macdonald, M.A., drew attention to the benefits to be derived from an outing with the Field Naturalists' Club, and expressed his appreciation of their work.

BOTANICAL NOTES.

ALUM ROOT AS A REMEDY FOR DIARRHOEA.

An interesting note on the medicinal value of Alum-root, (*Heuchera hispida*, Pursh) has been sent in by Mr. W. McCarthy of Rat Portage, Ont., who writes: "I was out prospecting with two white men (Mr. Moore and Mr. Walters) and an Indian. The two former were taken sick with severe diarrhoea for three days. The Indian left camp and went to the bush and got some of the plant I send you. He gave each of the men about an inch of the root to chew and swallow the juice. It acted like magic and the next day they were quite recovered. I have since had some of the root pounded fine and put a little water on it and boiled it up with sugar. I then strained it and have given it to several infants for cholera infantum and it has proved successful. The plant is abundant here and I have given it to several who have also used it successfully." The closely allied *Heuchera Americana*, L., is known to be a powerful astringent.

J. FLETCHER.
