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November, 1887.

THE
* OTTAWA NATURALIST *

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The
TRANSACTIONS.

Of the

* Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club *

(Organized March, 1879. Incorporated March, 1884.)

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NOTE ON OTTAWA SALAMANDERS.

F. R. LATCHFORD, B. A.

(Read 27th January, 1887.)

Vertebrate animals are usually arranged by naturalists in five classes—mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fishes. To the fourth of these divisions the salamanders belong. They have the general form of lizards, an elongated body, four feet, and a long tail; but their body is naked and not covered with scales, and their heart, like that of the frogs, has but one auricle, while the heart of the lizards and other true reptiles has two. While many species of salamanders, after becoming adult, never resort to the water except to deposit their eggs, all pass through the earlier stages of their existence and there undergo a series of remarkable changes of form. It was formerly a widely prevalent opinion that the salamanders were very poisonous; and in ancient natural history many astonishing instances are recorded of their poisonous qualities and of their powers to withstand the action of fire. They are, however, almost, if not quite, innocuous. The stories related of their appearance in the midst of blazing logs in fireplaces and their escape unharmed through the flames are not without foundation in fact. Several species live buried deep in decaying wood, and should a log containing them be placed on the hearth and lighted, they naturally endeavour to make their way to cooler quarters—the abundant viscid fluid which they secrete all over their body enabling them to resist fire to a considerable extent and in many instances to make good their escape.

Six species have been noticed in the vicinity of Ottawa. The Spotted Salamander (*Amblystoma punctatum*, Linn) is the largest species found in this vicinity where it is not uncommon. I have taken it on the McKay Estate, on the Canal Bank near Dow's Lake and in the Laurentides at Cantley. It usually attains a length of six inches, and I have one specimen which measures eight. Its colour above is a dark violet with numerous irregular bright yellow spots. Barton, who was the first in America to describe this species, called it the Poisonous Salamander (*S. venenosa*), but it is quite as harmless as other species.

Jefferson's Salamander (*Amblystoma jeffersonianum*, Baird) is nearly as large as *A. punctatum*, and like that species is terrestrial in its habit. It is brown in colour and is irregularly marked along the sides and on the back with numerous small bluish spots. Specimens have been taken in Hull by Mr. Harrington and by Mr. John Stewart.

The Red-backed Salamander (*Plethodon erythronotus*, Baird) is found in considerable numbers in rotten logs in the woods west of Hemlock Lake. The intensity of the colouring of the reddish lines along the back from which it takes its name varies greatly. The body is very slender and the legs are apparently weak, but the animal is notwithstanding able to move quite rapidly.

At Kingsmere, in May, 1884, a Two-lined Salamander (*Spelerpes bilineatus*, Baird) was captured by Mr. D'Arcy Scott. I have not seen the specimen; but it was identified by Dr. Merriam and no doubt correctly. It is a small, yellow species with dark lateral lines.

The Spotted Triton (*Diemyctylus viridescens*, Raf.) was found by Mr. Harrington, at Casselman, in 1884. It has not to my knowledge been found nearer Ottawa, but probably occurs here. It is a brightly coloured species, usually reddish above, with a row of bright and rather large vermilion spots along each side.

The dusky Salamander (*Desmognathus fuscus*, Baird) is a small, brownish species which occurs in great numbers in the Rideau River, near Hogsback, where a stone a few inches in diameter will be found to cover three or four individuals. When disturbed they seek shelter with incredible rapidity, and very easily escape capture. That they are sometimes taken unwittingly by persons who drink from the streams which they frequent is, I think, not improbable. If my memory is not badly at fault a case was reported in a Pembroke newspaper about ten years ago of a boy from Sheen, on the Upper Ottawa, whose mysterious illness had long baffled the skill of local physicians. Powerful emetics were at length directed to be administered, and the boy was relieved from several loathsome living animals which, from the description published, I believe to have been a species of Salamander.

There are three or four species other than those recorded which will probably be found here. Every specimen observed should be

collected; and if in the larval form its metamorphoses should be carefully noted. These observations, when collected and compared, would be useful as the basis for a paper of interest and value on the Salamanders found in the vicinity of Ottawa.

—:o:—

REPORT OF THE CONCHOLOGICAL BRANCH.

To the Council of the Ottawa Field-Naturalist Club:

The absence of my colleague, Mr. Poirier, and my own business engagements have prevented this branch from doing during the past year the amount of work that it should do. Very little collecting was possible. At Buckingham on our first excursion a number of shells were taken, *Succinea obliqua* was on that occasion found in quantity at the roots of sugar maples in the grove north of the railway station. *Sphaerium occidentale* was also found in abundance in ponds in the same locality. One specimen of the rare *Zonites binneyanus* was found about a mile up the Lievres, but no other shells except the commonest species were noted.

Late in the season the microscopic *Helix minutissima* was found in considerable numbers under poplar logs in a moist station on the Exhibition Grounds. In this locality I collected in a few minutes more specimens of *H. minutissima* than I had seen in the previous five years.

It is well known that many land shells which occur in Western Ontario, some of them very beautiful, are not found in this vicinity. An attempt has been made to establish these species here. Through the kindness of Mr. G. W. Dean, of Kent, Ohio, and Mr. Geo. J. Streator of Garrettsville, in the same State, I was enabled to place in the woods at various points around Ottawa, and in my garden, in the city, a number of living shells, including *M. thyroides*, *M. multilineata*, *Triodopsis tridentata*, *T. palliata*, *Patula solitaria*, *P. perspectiva*, *Zonites ligera*, and *Stenotremna hirsutum*. I was unable to visit afterwards the localities outside the city in which the shells were placed, but of those which were under my eye at home I observed that *Zonites ligera*, *Patula solitaria*, and *P. perspectiva*, all died. The others lived. *M. multilineata* seemed to flourish best, and in November young

shells four-tenths of an inch in diameter were to be found by the dozen in the corner in which five adult individuals has been placed in the month of June. The other species which lived, with the exception of *H. tridentata*, did not appear to multiply. I may say that the gentlemen who obtained the shells in Ohio were kind enough to furnish me with information as to the peculiar habitat of the different species, and I tried to establish each in a station suited to it. I was able to do this in the woods much better than at home, and it is not improbable that the majority of the shells thus disposed of may establish themselves here.

In former years I tried to introduce the English species found at Quebec, *H. rufescens* and *H. cantiana*, but without success. The latter species deposited eggs, but the young shells soon succumbed owing to climatic influences or the want of suitable food.

It will be of interest to observe whether the experiment made with the western shells will not be more successful. Possibly should land shells be found here larger in size and more beautifully coloured than the native species, more members of the Club would take an interest in their study.

F. R. LATCHFORD,

OTTAWA, January 27th, 1887.

ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF ONTARIO.

Annual Meeting, 1887, at Ottawa.

An event of considerable scientific interest was the Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of Ontario, which was held in this city on Wednesday and Thursday, 26th and 27th October. The officers and members of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club received an invitation to all the sessions.

On Wednesday two Council meetings were held and visits were paid to the Geological Museum and Experimental Farm. In the evening the President, Mr. James Fletcher, delivered the Annual Address in the Civic Council Chamber. It outlined the origin and progress of the Entomological Society, and then treated of various injurious insects which had been more or less destructive to field and garden crops during the past summer. The address was of much practical value, and was listened to with interest by a large audience, among whom were many members of our Club. A vote of thanks was moved by Rev. C. J. S. Bethune and Prof. Saunders, both of whom made appropriate and interesting speeches. Mr. Harrington had on exhibition his large collection of Ottawa Coleoptera, arranged in eighteen cases, and numbering over 1,250 species.

On Thursday sessions were held both in the forenoon and afternoon in a commodious Committee Room. After the usual presentation of Reports, etc., the election of officers was held and resulted as follows: *President*, James Fletcher, Ottawa; *Vice-President*, Mr. E. Baynes Reed; *Secretary-Treasurer*, Mr. W. E. Saunders, London; *Council*.—Rev. C. J. S. Bethune, Port Hope; W. Hague Harrington, Ottawa; Rev. T. W. Fyles, Quebec; J. M. Denton, London; Rev. Geo. W. Taylor, Victoria, B. C.

Rev. C. J. S. Bethune read a very interesting paper on *Aletia argillacea*, the celebrated cotton moth which does such enormous injury to cotton in the Southern States. He described its occurrence in great numbers at Port Hope on the 8th and 9th October. Mr. Harrington gave an account of a similar appearance of the insect at Ottawa on the evening of Sunday, 9th October, when great numbers were attracted

by the electric lights. The following morning he had observed at least 250 or 300 on the front of the Ottawa Bank. Mr. Moffatt stated that immense swarms of the moths had visited Hamilton on the evening of the 7th October. It has been for many years a debated question whether the insect breeds in Canada or immigrates from its southern habitat, and its presence in such immense numbers this autumn would seem to favour the latter view.

Mr. Fletcher exhibited a beautiful case of butterflies containing specimens of several rare species of *Chionobas*, &c, including *C. Macounii*, *C. Gigas* and *C. Californica*. He spoke of the rarity of the species and explained that nearly all the specimens shown had been captured by Prof. Macoun during his explorations at Nepigon and in British Columbia. A paper was submitted from Rev. G. W. Taylor, of Victoria, giving an account of an ascent of Mt. Finlayson in search of *Chionobas gigas*. Prof. Macoun stated that he had accompanied Mr. Taylor and gave some interesting particulars of the habits of the butterflies collected by him. We have not space to give further details of the papers and discussions, but the following papers were among those read:—

“Some remarkable Captures during the summer of 1887,” Capt. Geddes; “Nuptials of *Thalessa*” and “Further observations on *Oryssus Sayi*,” W. Hague Harrington; “Species, varieties, &c.,” J. Alston Moffatt.

Mr. Harrington’s collection of Ottawa beetles and Mr. Fletcher’s fine series of butterflies were on exhibition throughout the meetings.

It will be observed from this report that an active part in the proceedings was taken by members of our Club.

EXCURSION TO KIRK'S FERRY.

The Fifth General Excursion was held on the 17th September. The locality chosen for investigation was Kirk's Ferry, on the Gatineau River, about 12 miles from the city. The weather was perfect. It was one of our lovely Canadian autumn days, with a soft warm breeze, a bright sun, and the damp air filled with the scent of the woods. The members turned out in good numbers, and three heavily loaded vans carried the happy party from the dust of the city out into the pure air of the fields. The Chaudiere Falls first attracted the attention of the party. On account of the exceptional drought of this season, the water in the Ottawa River was so low that workmen were wading right across the river within 100 feet of the edge of the Fall, an occurrence which had never been previously recorded.

The bridge over Brigham's Creek was being repaired and one of the vans having gone by the Chelsea Road would have had a long return journey but for the low water. Owing to this, however, they were able to drive over the creek and join the rest of the party without trouble.

As the mountains were approached there were frequent exclamations of surprise and admiration at the gorgeous tints of the landscape. The vivid autumnal hues of the Maples, Beeches and Ashes, combined with the sombre shade of the Evergreens, rendered the scene one of great magnificence. Nor was the foreground less attractive. Beneath the shade of the spreading Butternut trees, which grow in great luxuriance along the Mountain Road, graceful ferns and lovely mosses find a fitting home. Bright berries and gaudy fungi, too, add to the beauty of the picture. It was with difficulty that the leader could restrain the impatience of the members till the destination was reached—about noon. Here they were led by the President to a secluded bay where the luncheon baskets were opened. In front were the wild rapids of the Gatineau, fringed by a beach of silver sand, behind rugged rocks thickly clothed with verdure—a lonely spot where some of the party chose to spend the whole day. After lunch the different leaders made up their parties and started off without delay so as to have as

much time as possible in this new locality. There were present several Geologists, and under the guidance of Mr. Brumell many minerals and objects of interest were collected. The Botanists were as usual well represented, and were well repaid for their labours. All the leaders and Prof. Macoun were present, and made the exploration interesting to those who accompanied them, naming and explaining the nature of all the plants brought to them. Several new species were added to the list of plants recorded. The most notable being *Vaccinium caespitosum*, a northern plant; *Vaccinium corymbosum*, var. *glaucum*; and *Solidago arguta*. Before leaving for home about an hour was pleasantly and advantageously spent in listening to the addresses of the leaders, which, owing perhaps to the new locality and the charming weather, seemed more than usually entertaining. The President, Mr. R. B. Whyte, with a few well chosen words introduced each speaker. Mr. Brumell, of the Geological Survey, explained the geological formation, and drew attention to the most important minerals discovered. Apatite naturally came in for a large share of attention, followed by Mica, Iron Pyrites and Hornblende; together with the other rocks found in the Laurentian formation. Following Mr. Brumell, Mr. Amos Bowman, also of the Geological Survey, spoke on the methods of working some of the minerals referred to, and especially spoke of the surface deposits of the district. Prof. Macoun, in his usual happy style, spoke of the plants collected, and the pleasures of a naturalist's life. Mr. Fletcher spoke of the insects, and gave some insight into the habits and life-histories of some specimens exhibited. The party reached town again about eight o'clock after a most successful expedition.

SUB-EXCURSIONS.

TWELFTH.—A party led by the President visited the Beaver Meadow, Hull, on the 27th August. The weather was charming and the woods were just putting on their gorgeous autumn dress. The Asters and Solidagos were in their prime and furnished a fertile field for study. Along the banks of the Beaver Meadow fine examples of the Closed Gentian *G. Au' rusii* were collected, and in the river *Bileus Beckii* was found flowering freely. At the same time the striking leaves and flowers of the Pickerel-weed, *Pontederia cordata*, were conspicuous objects. The President explained the chief points of interest about each species as found, and a most pleasant afternoon was spent in this favourite locality.

THIRTEENTH.—On 3rd September an enjoyable excursion was held to Billings Bridge. A full van of members left the usual rendezvous at two o'clock. The President and Dr. Baptie led the party. On arriving at the Bridge the party walked up the north shore of the river as far as Dow's Swamp. Amongst the low herbage in the woods, *Cuscuta Gronovii*, the "Dodder" was found, closely embracing in its deadly grasp plants of *Boehmeria cylindrica*, the Stingless Nettle.

A tree of *Celtis occidentalis* attracted a great deal of interest from the diseased state of its foliage; every leaf bore from 5 to 25 galls of the pretty little Homopteron *Psylla celtidis-mamma*. Asters and Solidagos were very conspicuous and many species were examined and compared.

FOURTEENTH.—On 10th September it was decided to again visit the Beaver Meadow at Hull, a locality always full of interest to collectors. Many berry-bearing plants now attracted attention, and the seeds of various plants were examined. The Ashes and Hawthorns were particularly drawn attention to by Prof. Macoun. *Nessia verticillata*, the Swamp Loosestrife with its aquatic stems and roots was an interesting topic for discussion. Some of the members amused themselves collecting the autumn leaves of Maples and other trees, which were particularly gaudy this season. The ornamental seeds of *Clematis Virginiana* were also gathered in large quantities. Prof. Macoun collected a large number of Mosses and Lichens, the most important of which he exhibited.

FIFTEENTH.—On the afternoon of the 28th September a few active workers of the Conchological Branch, including two ladies, met at Ratté's and procuring a large skiff rowed down the Ottawa to Duck Island. This locality is remarkable for producing in abundance one of the most beautiful shells found in the inland waters of North America. A few specimens of this species, *Unio occidentis*, Lea, were observed on the bar which runs from the head of the island towards the Quebec shore; but no attempt was made at collecting until a landing had been effected opposite Templeton Wharf, and the appetites of the party, sharply whetted by the long pull down the river, had been appeased by a hearty luncheon. The excursionists then divided, some remaining on the Northern shore and the others crossing the island. On the Southern side *Unio Occidens*, *U. borealis*, *U. ellipsis* and a large coarse form of *U. complanatus* were very common. A still larger but less ponderous variety of *complanatus*, pale in color and beautifully rayed, was found sparingly, and for the first time since 1881. One specimen of *U. alatus*, and a few *U. gracilis*, *U. rectus* and *U. gibbosus* were taken near the lower end of the island, all in fine condition. In the meantime those upon the North shore had not been idle. They had collected great heaps of *Unio occidentis*, *U. complanatus* and *U. ellipsis*, with several *U. borealis* and a few *U. gracilis*. One specimen each of *Anodonta undulata* and *Margaritana undulata*, the latter of remarkable size, was also found. The material of the afternoon's collecting was carefully examined before leaving, and any not required were replaced in the waters. All the shells selected were remarkable for size, beauty or variety, and the *Unio occidentis* rival in brilliancy of lustre and variety of form and coloring the choicest productions of tropical seas. A long pull, after a second attack on the lunch baskets, landed the party at Ottawa highly pleased with the result of the excursion.

SIXTEENTH.—The special object of this sub-excursion of the 1st October was to investigate the different species of *Fraxinus* found in the locality.

Rockcliffe was the locality visited, and many different trees were examined. Specimens of the seed of the Red Ash (*F. pubescens*), the White Ash (*F. Americana*) and the Black Ash (*F. sambucifolia*) were

gathered for cultivation. *Prunus pumila* was found to occur in some abundance round the rocky base of Rockcliffe, and *Astragalus Cooperi* was not uncommon. Several species of Aster and Solidago were examined, and the only locality in the neighbourhood, so far found, for *Ceanothus Americanus* the New Jersey Tea, was pointed out.

SEVENTEENTH.—A party belonging to the Botanical Section made an expedition on 8th October to Beechwood to look for *Aplectrum hiemale*, a rare orchid. They were, however, unsuccessful in their quest, but were well repaid by the discovery of many other plants. Mr. Fletcher explained the theories with regard to the growth of parasitic and saprophytic plants. Fine specimens were collected of *Comandra umbellata* growing attached to the roots of *Amelanchier Canadensis*. Roots of *Monotropa uniflora* were found showing, in some instances, a new bud for next year's growth. Attention was drawn to the similarity of the seeds of some of the Ericaceae to those of Orchids.

EIGHTEENTH.—Another expedition was made on 15th October for the same purpose as the preceding; Lieut.-Col. White, who had already found *Aplectrum hiemale*, was with the party and led them to the locality where he had discovered it. After a short search beneath the fallen leaves Mr. Fred. Magee succeeded in finding a fine patch of three plants—two of these bore two leaves each. This curious plant throws up in the autumn a large handsome ribbed leaf somewhat like the Lily of the Valley, it is dark green above and purple beneath. In the following summer a tall spike of purplish flowers appears in June or July, and then when this is mature an underground stem is produced bearing at its tip a bud which gradually is enlarged till it becomes a solid corm. From this the autumn leaf is borne. Sometimes, as in two of the plants referred to above, there are two of these bulbs on a plant. The old bulbs remain a year or two in the ground before decaying, so that there are thus sometimes three or four connected. The popular name of this plant is "Putty-root" or "Adam and Eve," the latter refers to the old and new bulbs being found connected. This kind of root is not, however, an uncommon occurrence amongst Orchids. Many of our common species have twin roots as we find in *Habenaria Hookeri* and many others.

NINETEENTH.—Despite the coolness of the weather a number of members of the Club and their friends left the city Post Office at 9.30 a.m., of 22nd October, and proceeded by way of the Montreal Road, in Gloucester, to the mouth of Green's Creek, some six miles distant. The drive down was rather cool, but by eleven o'clock, when the Creek was reached, the bracing weather had moderated, and when collecting began the excursionists soon felt comfortable. One o'clock brought the party together and the specimens contained in the baskets were eagerly discussed. Before lunch the upper portion of the Ottawa River shore had been searched for nodules and recent shells with considerable success, whilst the lower portion of the beach below the mouth of the Creek proved to be less rich in the sought for specimens. The party decided to make a halt on the way home at the Sulphur Springs, situated on the same creek, and close to where the bridge on the Montreal Road crosses it. This place was soon reached, and on the way the outcrop of the shales belonging to the Chazy Formation along the road, with the newer limestones flanking the hill, to the south, about half-a-mile east of the toll-gate, were examined. The waters of the springs having been tasted and an additional number of nodules collected up the creek, especially of that kind which is spheroidal in shape. The party re-assembled and in conformity to the usual custom, the leader in Geology, Mr. Henry M. Ami, who was present, was called to say a few words on the result of the day's outing. He accordingly briefly described the formation of rocks which had more particularly engaged their attention during the day, viz., the "Leda Clay" formation. The origin and mode of deposition of the clays and the animal remains to be found in them were pointed out, after which Dr. Bell, of the Geological Survey, made some remarks respecting the theory of elevation and subsidence of Continents, referring more particularly to Prof. Croll's theory of tidal action in the long lapse of time. This done, the excursionists returned to the city in good time, quite satisfied that a pleasant day had been spent. A number of ladies were present, which speaks well for the interest which they manifest in the natural history studies with which the Club is engaged.

LIBRARIAN'S RECORD.

Brooklyn Entomological Society : *Entomologica Americana*, Vol. III, No. 6.

Montreal Natural History Society : *The Canadian Record of Science*.

Cincinnati Society of Natural History : *Journal*, Vol. X, No. 3.

Essex Field Club, England : *The Essex Naturalist*, Nos. 7, 8, 9.

American Ornithologists' Union : *The Auk*, Vol. IV, No. 4.

Torrey Botanical Club : *Bulletin*, Vol. XIV, Nos. 9 and 10.

Entomological Society of Ontario : *The Canadian Entomologist*, Vol. XIX, Nos. 9, 10 and 11.

New York Microscopical Society : *Journal*, Vol. III, Nos. 3 and 4.

- *L'Université Laval* : *Annuaire*, 1887-88.

Dr. W. A. Kellerman : *Journal of Mycology*, Vol. III, Nos. 9 and 10.

Dept. of Agriculture, Manitoba : *Crop Bulletin*, No. 21.

Meteorological Service of Canada : *Report*, 1884.

MONOTROPA UNIFLORA.

To the Editor of the *Ottawa Naturalist*:—

DEAR SIR: In the June number of the *Ottawa Naturalist* I notice some views expressed by Mr. Fletcher on the growth of *Monotropa*. I feel assured that his views are correct. In the summer of 1873 I was searching in a hardwood bush for roots of *Aplectrum hienude*, when I found several bunches of roots which I at once took to be those of *M. uniflora*, but there was no appearance of flowering stems. I also observed that they were securely attached to roots, about three-sixteenths of an inch in diameter, of what I took to be maple, but which may have been beech.

There could be no doubt about the parasitic attachment. At first I imagined that the flowering stems had been plucked, but on examination this was evidently not the case as no signs of injury could be found; moreover it was in the month of July, too early in the season for the flowers to have appeared. I marked the place carefully, and drove in several pegs beside roots which were but little disturbed. I revisited the spot towards the end of September, after I had found several in flower, but found all just as I had left it; not a plant was to be seen. In September of the following year I happened to be driving within a short distance of the locality, so tying my horse I went carefully over the ground and found the flowers so numerous that from a small area I could have gathered a large basketful. From want of time I did not carry the investigation further, but this was enough to convince me of the accuracy of Mr. Fletcher's statements.

WM. BRODIE.

TORONTO, 3rd June, 1887.

[NOTE.—With regard to the above interesting subject, upon consulting Prof. Macoun, he states that he agrees with the general tenor of Mr. Brodie's letter, but adds with regard to the host-plant, that he is sure that *Monotropa* grows upon the roots of other plants besides the Beech, as he has found it in many districts where that tree does not occur. In British Columbia he found it common in Coniferous woods where no deciduous trees grew. It is also abundant in the cold woods of the Gaspé peninsular, on Anticosti, and in some parts of Nova Scotia where the Beech is unknown. He is of the opinion that valuable information would undoubtedly be gained by carrying out the experiment suggested in the June number of the *Naturalist* of growing these plants from seed.—Ed.]

EDITORIAL.

Since our last editorial appeared—in the May number of the *Naturalist*—summer has come and gone and snowstorms* and frosts give warning of the approach of winter. The collecting season, for most branches at least, is over, and we have no more pleasant Excursions, or Saturday Outings to announce. The work of the Club, however, finds no stay; it ends not with the summer, but merely changes with the seasons. All the varied treasures gathered from field and forest, from cliff and quarry, have yet to be carefully examined and prepared for the herbarium, or the cabinet, otherwise they will be as useless as the miser's gold stored in hidden recesses, and will be liable like it to be before long lost. A great store of specimens in all branches should be the result of the past season's work, facilitated as it has been by so many Excursions and Outings. Amongst these specimens must be many valuable and rare species; additions to our lists; perhaps forms new to science. These will require special and critical study, in order that they may be properly recorded for the benefit of naturalists elsewhere.

Any member having notes of interest should, if they be not intended for presentation in a special paper, forward them without delay to the Leaders of the several Branches, to enable them to prepare their Reports on the season's labours and conquests. The Soirée Committee has now nearly completed what we trust will be an attractive programme for the Winter Lectures and Classes. This will appear in full next month; and the date for the first Soirée has been fixed for the 9th December, when the Annual Address will be delivered by the President—Mr. R. B. Whyte.

A report will be found in this number of the Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of Ontario, which was held in the city for the first time since the organization of the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club. The meeting lasted two days, and, as the officers and members of our Club had received a cordial invitation to attend all the sessions,

*The first of these was on Sunday, 23rd October, when snow fell for several hours, and in unusual quantity for such an early date. A week later there was another fall lasting all day.

many availed themselves of this opportunity of acquiring more knowledge of the insect world. We were particularly gratified to see so many present on the evening when the President delivered his address, as it evidenced such an interest as should be taken by our members in the work of a kindred society.

We would particularly impress upon any members who may not yet have paid their subscription fees for the current year, that these dues are payable in advance. Formerly when the transactions of the Club were published almost at the close of the year, the Treasurer did not find it necessary to call upon the members before that time, but under the present method of monthly publication the Treasurer (Mr. James Fletcher, Experimental Farm) has corresponding payments to make, and must look to the members to provide him with the required funds.

Another, and very important, way by which the treasury can be replenished, and the Club at the same time strengthened at every point, is in the securing of new members. There are undoubtedly still many persons in the city who might derive both pleasure and advantage from attending the Lectures and Classes of the coming winter, and who only await information as to the objects and work of the Club to induce them to join it.

Members will have observed no doubt that the September and October numbers of our magazine contained only twelve pages each. The eight pages thereby at present lost will, however, be regained when the proposed revised List of Ottawa Plants is ready for publication, and will enable the first portion of that list to be printed without subdivision. This new list of our plants will be one of great value to botanists, as numerous additions have been made to the "Flora Ottawaensis" published in Transactions No. I, and information regarding the habitat, etc., of each species will be given.

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