

## THE OTTAWA FLORA.

In working up the flora of Ottawa the writer has been much impressed with the narrow limits ascribed to some species, and the few localities that have been even cursorily examined. The intention of this note is to encourage beginners and show how much is yet to be done in this vicinity.

The herbaria of those who worked in past years show that most of their work was done in the seventies. Mr. R. B. Whyte did his work chiefly in 1875, 76, 77, 78 and 79. Dr. H. M. Ami in 1879, Dr. James Fletcher chiefly in 1878 and 1879, though he has been doing active botanical work ever since. My own work and that of my son, J. M. Macoun, commenced in 1883 and has been continued ever since. Mr. William Scott, Head Master of Toronto Normal School, did a great deal of good work from 1891 up to the time he left for Toronto. The above names are given because the collections made by each of them may still be studied. Each collector had apparently his own "beat."

Mr. R. B. Whyte, first in the field, did most of his collecting on the east of the city, but the Gatineau river, Hull, Beechwood, and the Bank street road on the Glebe property, were his chief hunting grounds. Dr. Fletcher made his earliest collections in old Stewarton and the vicinity of Billings' Bridge. Later the writer collected in the Beaver Meadow beyond Hull, and the above with Dow's Swamp, Rockcliffe Park and Beechwood are the only localities which have been exhaustively examined by him around the city.

Dr. Fletcher, in his *Flora Ottawaensis*, intended to include a radius of 30 miles from Ottawa, but outside of five miles from the city scarcely anything has been done. The only points we have specimens from are Eastman's Springs, Casselman, South Indian, Carleton Place, Stittsville, Aylmer, Chelsea, King's Mountain, Kirk's Ferry, Templeton and Buckingham.

Since the building of electric roads and the multiplication of railways there is no difficulty now in getting about, and the writer makes an earnest appeal to the members of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club to commence active work in all branches in the spring, and he can assure them that in no branch is the field exhausted.

JOHN MACOUN.

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