

Latour

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.*

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 *Stenotrema 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

na jeffersonianum, Baird) is a that species is terrestrial in irregularly marked along the small bluish spots. Specimens taken and by Mr. John Stewart.

holon erythronotus, Baird) is on logs in the woods west of clearing of the reddish lines the varies greatly. The body is weak, but the animal is lively.

lined Salamander (*Spelerpes* Carey Scott. I have not seen Dr. Merriam and no doubt with dark lateral lines.

viridescens, Raf.) was found by It has not to my knowledge occurs here. It is a brightly with a row of bright and rather

thus fuscus, Baird) is a small, numbers in the Rideau River, dies in diameter will be found when disturbed they seek shelter and escape capture. That they persons who drink from the sink, not improbable. If my reported in a Pembroke newspaper Sheen, on the Upper Ottawa, led the skill of local physicians. to be administered, and the me living animals which, from ve been a species of Salamander. ther than those recorded which specimen observed should be

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.
