

# Transactions

OF THE

## BANFFSHIRE FIELD CLUB.



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**FRIDAY, 17th MARCH 1939.**

A Lecture entitled "How Plants respond to their environment" was delivered this evening by Professor K. W. Braid, M.A., B.Sc., F.R.S.E., of the West of Scotland Agricultural College, Glasgow. Dr C. S. M'Pherson, one of the Vice-Presidents, presided, and accorded a welcome to the Lecturer who had on one occasion led several of those present on a botanical excursion.

Professor Braid, after expressing his pleasure at receiving so cordial a welcome, said he was to speak more particularly that night on trees because these could be examined more fully than the smaller plants, and another reason why he desired to treat of trees was that there were in the vicinity of Banff some of the finest woods of their kind that he knew.

The lecture, which the Professor then proceeded to give, was beautifully illustrated with a series of well-chosen slides which brought out in a clear and comprehensive manner the various aspects of the matters dealt with. One of the principal facts which he emphasised was the effect of light and water on the growth of the trees. Light, he pointed out, might be shed abundantly on one part of the trees and be obscured from another part, and it would then be found that the appearance of the tree in these particular parts would be quite distinctive. Water in lakes, &c., served to attract the growth of the foliage, and this accounted for the disproportionate semblance of trees in the vicinity. Tarring roadway, he also pointed out, could have a somewhat similar effect. Typical examples of cases in question were shown on the screen, and the audience were also treated to an explanation of the various markings on a tree, and the facts which could be deduced from a careful study of these. The age of the tree, for example, could, he stated, be told by counting the number of "rings" to be seen at its base when it was cut down, each "ring" representing a year's growth. Sometimes, how-

ever, the "rings" were not altogether symmetrical, and this was due to elements which had encouraged the growth of the tree on one side more than on another. He also explained how it was possible to obtain the beautiful grained wood so much used in churches and similar buildings, and went on to note the characteristics of certain types of trees that flourish in foreign climates.

At the close of what was in every way a delightful and instructive talk that appealed to all present, a number of questions were asked on several of the points raised during the evening, and these were answered by the Professor in an able and informative way. On the call of ex-Provost Gordon, who expressed the enjoyment and interest which the audience had derived from the meeting, he was accorded a hearty vote of thanks. In acknowledging the compliment, he took occasion also to thank Mr J. A. Gordon who showed the views, and Dr M'Pherson for the happy way in which he had conducted the meeting.