

Transactions

OF THE

BANFFSHIRE FIELD CLUB.



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www.banffshirefieldclub.org.uk

Mr Wilson, Hillocks of Terpersie, Alford, read a paper on Heath in the North of Scotland, an order of shrubs, he said, which were sometimes very low, even creeping on the one hand, and approaching to trees on the other, while there were also representatives which connected shrubs with herbs and representatives of the latter as well. It was spread over most of the world, except Australia, predominating in the temperate and colder regions. Here we had representatives of four tribes.

Of the first we had bearberry, occupying dry rocky situations, and with leaves shining and ever green. The berry was nearly tasteless, but should not be eaten by man, although birds frequenting the moors ate them. The plant had medicinal virtues, and its dyeing properties were valuable.

Of the second tribe, we had dog heather, which covered whole tracts of our moors and mountains. The plant lived for a considerable number of years, and its wood was of good quality, and resisted putrefaction very sternly, small twigs remaining sound, although covered with soil for some years. It developed best on moist soil, but was not particular as to quality. It was late in commencing growth in spring, and continued late in the season, which was of great advantage, as it was in best condition for food to those animals which used it in autumn and winter, when the majority of plants which constituted their food were of little value. A great many animals partook of it, and such birds as red grouse were believed to eat pretty largely of the twigs. The fact that the flowers yielded the finest honey we had meant that an innumerable number of insects must derive part of their sustenance from it. The luxuriance of the flowers was largely influenced by the character of the season, and it required certain forms of weather to enable bees to derive honey from it, either too much drought or rain being against this. It was not general

SUPPER.

The members met at supper in the Fife Arms Hotel. Dr Milne presided, and Provost Ross, Inverness, was croupier. The Chairman gave the usual preliminary toasts, and Mr G. M. Hossack gave the Navy, Army, and Volunteers, the Croupier returning thanks. Mr Hossack referred to the fact that at Duff House that afternoon they had seen a flag carried about a hundred years ago by volunteers in that part of the county, while the Croupier noted that he had served as a volunteer for thirty-three years.

Mr BARRON gave the toast of the Federated Societies. The Association, he said, had had already a pretty long life, extending to 15 or 16 years, and, considering that such associations had rather a precarious existence, that