

### The Microscope.

The second regular meeting of the Ottawa Microscopical Society was held last evening in the Geological Museum, the President, Mr. Whiteaves, occupying the chair.

After some routine business, the Secretary, Mr. J. B. Tyrrel, read a letter from the Montreal Microscopical Society thanking the Ottawa club for having taken the initiative in this branch of scientific investigation, and offering to exchange slides and preparations. A letter from a distinguished microscopist, with good wishes and complimentary allusion to the President, was also read.

Dr. Wicksteed reported that he had taken action in a matter of interest to all making use of scientific apparatus. He had written to the Minister of Customs respecting the uncertainty which existed as to the rate of duty to be levied on optical and philosophical instruments, varying as it did from 20 to 30 per cent. He had suggested that a new class be made in the tariff to embrace philosophical, optical, and scientific apparatus, instruments and preparations when imported by private persons. He had respectfully represented that goods in this class might in fairness be admitted free of duty, as they could not be manufactured in Canada, and were moreover as often imported for the education and improvement of the people as for their amusement.

Mr. F. D. Adams, B. A., secretary of the Geological Survey Staff, then read a paper on rock sections, as used for determination by the microscope. He described the mode of preparing the sections and the characteristics of the various crystalline rocks. A great variety of section were then passed in review under a very perfect lithological microscope by Hartnac, of Paris.

A discussion on the paper arose, in which Dr. Kemp, Mr. F. Dixon, Dr. Baptie, Mr. Ami, Dr. Small, and others, took part, concluding by a vote of thanks to Mr. Adam.

The papers announced so far are, Mr. J. B. Tyrrell on Entomology, on 19th December; Dr. Kemp on Sea Weeds, 16th January; and Dr. Small on Pathological Study on 20th February.

The meeting adjourned at 10.15 to Tuesday, 19th December.

Dear Dr. Brewster:-

Do you not think I have  
reason on my side, - Can you

help me?

Yours be,

R. J. Wicksteed.

Wicksteed  
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### "THE DRUNKARD'S CAREER."

Dr. Wicksteed's lecture on this subject was given last evening in St. James' Hall, before a large audience, considering the state of the weather and counter attractions, and we are pleased to say it was in every way a success. The lecturer spared neither time nor expense in providing himself with the latest apparatus and slides to illustrate his subject with the aid of an oxy-hydrogen stereopticon, thereby reaching the minds of his hearers, through the eye as well as through the ear. The series of views portrayed, in twelve scenes, the various steps in the downward path of the unfortunate lover of strong drink, beginning with the happy home and ending with death by suicide, or as the lecturer described it, "the death that precedes eternal death." The chair was occupied by Sheriff Sweetland, who introduced the lecturer, and also on behalf of the audience tendered him their thanks. Although intending to merely perform these simple duties of chairman he could not help adding a few words in support of the work sought to be done by the temperance organizations of Ottawa. In the course of his address he said that no word painting nor any delineations of art can fully picture to the mind the horrors endured by those suffering from drunkenness, directly or indirectly. He instanced the cases of two persons who had been destroyed, as far as this life is concerned, and who were known to some in the audience, asking, in conclusion, if any means known to men could fully describe or picture such misery. He said he was led into making these remarks thinking there might be some young man in the audience who stood in need of warning. He also said that recently when going to Kingston with prisoners he refused them what has been the customary glass, knowing that drink has been the means of filling the prisons of our land.

A vote of thanks was given to Mr. Wilson for presiding at the piano, and to Mr. Topley for his services at the lantern.

It is the intention of the ladies of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, under whose auspices the lecture was given, to establish a coffee house. A meeting in aid of the project will be held this week.

Mr. Andrew  
C. Smith