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5. The most profitable results of inoculation are likely to be in soils where nodule bacteria are naturally absent, and the least profitable where Leguminosæ have been greatly cultivated. Between these two there are all grades.

I cannot close this article without placing on record my indebtedness to Professor Nobbe and Dr. Hilltner, who received me at Tharand with great courtesy, and gave me every opportunity of becoming acquainted with the methods and experiments.

EXCURSION OF THE SCOTTISH ALPINE BOTANICAL CLUB
TO CLOVA, IN JULY 1896. By WILLIAM CRAIG, M.D.,
F.R.S.E., F.R.C.S.E., Secretary of the Club.

(Read 11th March 1897.)

The Annual Excursion of the Club in 1896 was to Clova, a place exceedingly rich in botanical treasures, and one which is, and has been for generations, a great favourite with botanists. When the Club first visited Clova in 1872, the whole district was pastoral, and perfect freedom was permitted to all botanists. It is now, however, like many other of our highland glens, converted into a deer forest, and consequently there is sometimes a difficulty of access to these glens. The Club, however, were highly favoured in obtaining permission for a week in July to botanise the district. Permission was obtained from the proprietrix, Mrs. Macpherson of Glen Doll, through her agent, Mr. W. Gibson, W.S., Edinburgh.

The members of the Club left Edinburgh on Monday, 27th July 1896, with the 9.40 A.M. train for Kirriemuir. They travelled by the Caledonian Railway, the officials of which Company sent a private saloon carriage to Kirriemuir for the special use of the members. Kirriemuir was reached about 12.45 P.M. After lunch in one of the hotels the members had a very pleasant drive to Clova, and stayed at the Ogilvy Arms Hotel. Nine members of the Club attended this excursion, including our president, Mr. W.

B. Boyd. They were accompanied by Dr. Playfair, of Bromley.

In the evening a business meeting of the Club was held, when Professor F. O. Bower, Glasgow, and Mr. A. Somerville, B.Sc., Glasgow, were elected members. The election of two such distinguished members will greatly strengthen the Club. Bedroom accommodation in the Clova Hotel was very deficient, and three of the party had to be accommodated in a farmhouse half a mile distant.

Tuesday, 28th July.—The excursion to-day was to Glen Fee. The day was remarkably fine. Our new member, Mr. Somerville, sent specimens of the *Hieracia*, collected during this excursion, and also the specimens of the *Salices* to the Messrs. Linton; and other doubtful plants to Mr. Bennett of Croydon. Among the plants collected to-day may be mentioned—*Thalictrum alpinum*, L.; *Sagina Linnæi*, Presl.; *Oxytropis campestris*, DC., on the only known station for that plant in the British Isles; *Saxifraga oppositifolia*, L.; *S. nivalis*, L.; *S. stellaris*, L.; *S. aizoides*, L.; *Saussurea alpina*, DC.; *Hieracium eximium*, Marshalli, rare; *H. chrysanthemum*, Backh., plentiful; *H. lingulatum*, Backh.; *H. anglicum*, Fries; *H. anglicum*, var. *acutifolium*, Backh.; *Veronica alpina*, L.; *Salix lanata*, L.; *S. Lapponum*, L.; *S. nigricans*, Sm., crossed with *S. myrsinites* or *S. phyllicifolia*; *S. myrsinites*, L.; *Malaxis paludosa*, Sw., one specimen of this orchid was found by the president, which measured $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length; *Carex pauciflora*, Lightf.; *C. pulicaris*, L.; *C. echinata*, Murr.; *C. leporina*, L.; *C. alpina*, Swartz; *C. atrata*, L.; *C. rigida*, Good.; *C. pallescens*, L.; *C. panicea*, L.; *C. vaginata*, Tausch; *C. capillaris*, L.; *C. binervis*, Sm.; *C. Grahamei*, Boott; *Poa glauca*, Sm., which Mr. Bennett says is the nearest to Smith's supposed *Casia* that he has seen; *Festuca rubra*, L., a hairy glumed form; *Aspidium Lonchitis*, Sw.; and the moss *Splachnum sphaericum*. They failed to find *Woodsia*.

Wednesday, 29th July.—The excursion to-day was to Craig Maud and the Astragalus Rock. The day was again fine, but not so hot as on the previous day. Although careful search was made, they failed to find any specimen of *Astragalus alpinus*, L., a plant which formerly was in great abundance on a rock at the head of the glen.

In the opinion of the members of the Club, this rare plant had been eradicated from Glen Doll. The plant, however, is known in two other localities in Britain, one in the Braemar district, Little Craigendal; and the other on Ben Vrackie, near Pitlochry. Another well-known Clova plant, which ought to have been seen to-day, was *Lactuca alpina*, Benth., but no trace of it was seen. They gathered some good alpine plants, including—*Arabis hirsuta*, Br.; *Sagina Linnæi*, Presl.; *Dryas octopetala*, L.; *Saxifraga nivalis*, L.; *S. hypnoides*, L.; *Epilobium angustifolium*, L.; *E. alsine-folium*, Vill.; *E. alpinum*, L.; *Linnæa borealis*, Gronov.; *Erigeron alpinum*, L.; *Saussurea alpina*, DC.; *Hieracium cerinthiforme*, Bækh.; *Erica cinerea*, L., var. *alba*; *Pyrola rotundifolia*, L.; *P. secunda*, L.; *Veronica scryphillifolia*, L., var. *humifusa*, Dicks.; *V. Saxatilis*, L.; *Salix nigricans*, Sm.; *S. phylicifolia*, L.; *Habenaria viridis*, Br.; *Tofieldia palustris*, Huds.; *Carex pauciflora*, Lightf.; *C. pulicaris*, L.; *C. rupestris*, All.; *C. canescens*, L., var. *apicola*, Wahl.; *C. rigida*, Good.; *C. Goodenovii*, Gay; and a form of which the fruits seemed affected by insect-puncture or fungus, and of which Mr. Bennett says some of the fruits seem quite *rigida*, others towards *Goodenovii*; *C. rariflora*, Sm.; *C. glauca*, Murr., luxuriant specimens; *C. pilulifera*, L.; *C. flava*, L.; *C. ampullacea*, Good.; *Poa nemoralis*, L., according to A. Bennett, “a variety, but seemingly not one in our books”; *Botrychium Lunaria*, Sw.; *Equisetum palustre*, L., var. *nudum*; *Tetraplodon mniodes*; *Hypnum Crista-castrensis*, L. By the side of the stream at “Jock’s Ladder” was seen a large tree of *Salix caprea*, L. It is worthy of note that the following plants were found with abundance of fruit, unusually fine:—*Empetrum nigrum*, L.; *Rubus Chamemorus*, L.; *Fragaria vesca*, L.; *Cornus succica*, L., a plant not often found in fruit in Scotland; *Vaccinium myrtillus*, L.; *V. uliginosum*, L., sparingly; *V. Vitis-Idæa*, L.; *V. oxycoccus*, L.; and *Tricentalis europæa*, L.

Thursday, 30th July.—The excursion to-day was to Glen Fee and Glen Doll. The day was again dry and fine. Among the plants collected may be mentioned—*Arabis hirsuta*, Br.; *Geranium Robertianum*, L., var. *alba*; *Epilobium alpinum*, L.; *Vaccinium uliginosum*, L., in ripe fruit; *Salix Lapponum*, L.; *Malaxis paludosa*, Sw.; *Tofieldia*

palustris, Huds.; *Carex aquatilis*, Wahl.; *C. Goodenovii*, Gay, var. *atra*, Blytt; *C. precox*, Jacq.; *Deschampsia cespitosa*, Beauv., var. *brevifolia*; *Aspidium Lonchitis*, Sw.

Friday, 31st July.—The excursion to-day was to Little Gilrannoch. The day was again fine. The party went by Glen Doll, and past the White Waterfalls to the upper valley of the White Water, and then to the top of Little Gilrannoch. The *Lychnis alpina* was found at this station as abundant as ever. Among the plants collected may be mentioned—*Cochlearia alpina*, Wats.; *Lychnis alpina*, L.; *Cerastium semidecandrum*, L.; *C. triviale*, Link., var. *alpinum*, Koch.; *Arenaria Cherleri*, Benth.; *Armeria vulgaris*, Willd.; *Gentiana campestris*, L., var. *germanica*, Murbeck (non Willd.); *Juncus Triglumis*, L.; *J. castaneus*, L.; *Carex canescens*, L.; *C. rigida*, Good.; a form supposed by Mr. A. Bennett to be the var. *infuscata*, Drejer; *C. aquatilis*, Wahl.; and a variety supposed by Bennett to be var. *minor*, Boott; *C. rariflora*, Sm.; *Alopecurus alpinus*, Sm.; *Phleum alpinum*, L.; a form of *Equisetum sylvaticum*, L., supposed to be *tenuior*; and the moss *Diphyscium foliosum*.

The day was exceedingly fine, and the party returned from their long excursion in excellent health and spirits, less tired than during any of the previous days.

Saturday, 1st August.—After an early breakfast, the whole party left Clova at 7 A.M.; and after a pleasant drive, they reached Kirriemuir in time to catch the 9.35 A.M. train to Edinburgh. The officials of the Caledonian Company again sent to Kirriemuir a fine saloon carriage for the use of the members of the Club. Edinburgh was reached about 3 P.M. All the members were greatly delighted with their excursion to Clova. It is worthy of record that the Club experienced no rain during the whole of this excursion. In the words of the president: "The weather was delightful throughout, and not a drop of rain. I never remember a meeting when we did not even get our feet wet before."