

lows are all on the southward move. Like bright torches the ashes all too early flame yellow among the green poplars, and where clearings have been made the crimson flush of fading underbrush begins to burn. But it is north of the lake where the chief attraction lies for me. At this time of the year the alteration of clearings with untouched bush preserves the late flowers from blighting wind and frost, while the very openness of the clearings brings out most brightly the puce-purple of the dogwood clumps, the brilliant scarlets of the little cherry trees, the mingled crimsons, browns, yellows and green of the seedling oaks, the deep crimson of the highbush cranberry, and perhaps brightest of all, the fiery scarlet which paints tiny gooseberry bushes with unwonted splendour. Mixed wonderfully with these are leaves of all sorts still green or beginning to yellow with age on poplars, Balm of Gilead, hazel and saskatoon. Here, too, the late asters join with tall sheaves of golden-rod to produce their lovely contrasts of purple. White asters also vie with here we find the handsome New England aster whose rays around a yellow disc are more crimson than purple. While asters also vie with the daisy fleabane in luxuriance. It is odd, however, that people long resident in Manitoba travel up and down that trail without ever noticing one of the chief beauties of its late flowering season.

After the middle of August only the watchful eye catches sight of that fine blue which is the chief glory of the gentian tribe. It is the closed or bottle gentian (*G. andrewsii*) which coyly peeps among the herbage showing now a light porcelain blue corolla tipped with white, tight closed except at the tip, whence peer the stamens or the stigma. Sometimes the blue approaches ultra-marine, at other times the colour is an intense violet-blue. Usually from five to seven flowers are crowded in a terminal cluster, but often lower down the stalk one or two additional clusters grow from the bases of the oval leaves, which sometimes are quite rusty. The fringed gentians, loving dry meadows and wayside places, do not frequent the damp places beloved by the closed gentian. Here the bumble bee finds its last feast of the season within these walls which

allow it entry and probably it alone. Let me end by quoting Elaine Goodale's lines, which though written for the fringed gentian and for "down East" have some relation to our present theme:

Along the quiet road, winding slow,
When free October ranged its sylvan
ways,
And, vaulting up the terraced steep
elbow,
Chased laughing sunbeams through
the golden days,
In matchless beauty, tender and
serene,
The gentian reigned an undisputed
queen.

Editor's Note: We are indebted to Thomas Heaslip, Loughries, County Down, North Ireland, for sending us the interesting description of prairie roadsides in autumn reprinted above. We are indebted to R. D. Symons, our conservation chairman, for the following information about Dr. Speechly which he obtained from the Public Press and from Dr. Speechly's daughter. Mr. Symons corresponded with Dr. Speechly in 1913, 1914, and 1915 and received much help and encouragement in his bird studies from Dr. Speechly.

Dr. H. M. SPEECHLY 1866-1951

Author of *By Two Canadian Trails in Late August*

Dr. H. M. Speechly was born in India in 1866 where his father was Bishop of Travancore. He was educated in England and received his professional training at London Hospital.

After practising in England, Dr. Speechly came to Canada in 1901 and settled in Pilot Mound, Manitoba. His garden there was a veritable park, illustrating what could be done to beautify property on the prairie. For years he kept official records of bird migration and became an acknowledged authority on natural history. His articles in *The Grain Growers' Guide* and *The Northwest Farmer* were widely read in the western provinces.

In 1916, Dr. Speechly went to England on overseas service, returning in 1919 to practise medicine in Winnipeg. In 1929, he was appointed Provincial Coroner which office he filled with distinction until his retire-

ment in 1942. Following this he served from 1942 to 1945 on the staff of the Municipal Hospitals of Winnipeg. Dr. Speechly passed away on March 17, 1951.

Dr. Speechly was a moving spirit in the Manitoba Horticultural Association and was one of the founders of the Natural History Society and of the Manitoba Museum. For 25 years he and his associates worked tirelessly to convince the authorities and the general public that mosquito control was a practical and greatly needed health measure. When the 1950 flood threatened to endanger the health of the citizens, the mosquito abatement organization was ready to swing into action.

Dr. Speechly was a widely read man of tremendous energy and en-

thusiasm, an able speaker, interested in bettering conditions wherever he happened to be. All down the years, both Dr. and Mrs. Speechly were originators of new, practical ideas, far-seeing and interested in the welfare of the general public. More than that, they were prepared to follow up each new venture with sustained enthusiasm and sheer hard work.

In recognition of a life-time of voluntary service to the Province of Manitoba, the University of Manitoba honoured Dr. Speechly on May 14, 1943, by conferring on him the degree of LL.D. On October 15, 1947, the same honour was bestowed on Mrs. Speechly for her outstanding contributions in the fields of education and public welfare.

Self-guided Nature Trails Established in Cypress Hills Park

by Douglas E. Wade¹, Regina

Self-guided nature trails, whereon you can walk without personal guide, have been in use in North America since the 1920's. Such trails, an accepted part of interpretive programs of national parks, are rare in Canadian provincial parks. There are many varieties of "marked" nature trails ranging from those that simply label plants in season along a pathway to those that lead the viewer to an understanding of how nature works through its many inter-relationships. The latter style is much more difficult to construct.

Recently, three nature trails have been developed at Cypress Hills Provincial Park.² Two are "self-guided" nature trails and mimeographed "guide" information for each can be obtained at park headquarters. The other trail, perhaps unique in Canada, is a combined "nature and compass trail." To use it one must not only know something about natural history but also how to use a compass and make linear measurements up and down hill and on the level by pacing. A mimeographed set of instructions for this compass route is also available at park headquarters.

The compass trail, because it culminating point of interest is a group of old buffalo wallows, has been named "Plateau of the Buffalo Wallows." The other trails, each named after a distinctive feature, are "Valley of the Beavers" and "Valley of the Windfalls."

The "Valley of the Beavers" trail starts from the east end of the dam forming Loch Lomond and wends southward down the left bank of the Lone Pine Creek for about eight-tenths of a mile. It then crosses the creek by a low foot bridge immediately below and parallel to a 100-foot beaver dam. The trail then goes back up the valley along the right bank of the creek recrossing the creek by a foot bridge and back to the starting point. From near the Lone Pine Camp Ground, there is an auxiliary entrance route. The entire trail has 22 marked stations or points of interest. Each station (a numbered stub post) covers some characteristic actions and relationships of beavers to their environment.

Beaver workings and "signs" along the valley are very abundant. During early morning and late evening