

Legislature, upon the plea that we are promoting the study of Natural Science. It is very reasonable that such aid and encouragement should be given in a young country like this, but we can only expect it to be continued upon some good showing that we are accomplishing the work to which we are pledged. This I trust we can justly assert to be the case. But whatever help we may derive from the Legislature, it is rather upon the co-operation of our own members, that we must mainly and eventually rely, if we expect to advance our Institution or extend its usefulness. It is not however reasonable to anticipate any rapid accession of members who will devote themselves systematically to scientific pursuits; but I think there is every reason to believe that the efforts of this Society are really advancing the cause of Science, and that its influence is becoming extended, and its labours more and more appreciated by the public. There are several ways in which the Society seeks to advance its work, and bring its influence to bear upon the public mind. First there is the Museum which occupies all the upper part of this building, and has received some very valuable additions recently, which will be noticed more particularly in the Report. This offers many objects of great interest in various departments, and has been visited by far larger numbers than in any previous year. Then there are the Somerville course of lectures during the Winter free to the public, and which have attracted such immense crowds this year that great numbers of persons have been unable to gain admittance. These Lectures bear in general a popular character; while at the monthly meetings of the Society there have been a number of very able and scientific papers read on various subjects. And lastly in order to give permanence to its labours, and disseminate its usefulness, the Society superintends a bi-monthly periodical, under the title of "The Canadian Naturalist." As to the Lectures delivered during the last year, they were attended by such large audiences, and were so well appreciated at the time, that I will not now delay you by alluding to them in detail. But the monthly meetings of the Society, which are truly the periods of its really scientific work, are not so largely attended, nor I think appreciated, as they deserve. And I should wish to mention some of the many interesting papers which have been read and dis-