

room for additional specimens. Upwards of a hundred new species of birds (of which ninety-two specimens were presented by the University of Oxford), several fine and rare mammals, and specimens in every other branch of natural history, make the new cases urgently called for.

Perhaps the most important alteration introduced this year has been the throwing the Museum open to the public gratuitously on Saturdays, from 1 to 4 p.m. in winter, and from 2 to 6 p.m. in summer. This step, which was not taken without full deliberation and some difference of opinion among the members, has at any rate proved their desire to spread the knowledge and pleasure to be derived from their collections as widely as possible among the inhabitants of Montreal and the strangers visiting the city. At first considerable damage was done to the property of the Society; but, an appeal having been made to the Mayor, two policemen have been regularly placed in attendance, and the conduct of visitors has been such as to warrant the Council in recommending the present as a permanent arrangement. The visitors have varied from 30 to 130 on these occasions,—a small number for so large a population.

During the past summer one of the Vice-Presidents, Mr. Leeming, kindly made arrangements to send the Cabinet-keeper on a collecting excursion to the coast of Maine. This was not only an agreeable change from his ordinary employments, but Mr. Leeming (who defrayed all the expenses of the expedition,) generously presented the specimens obtained to the Museum. Many other places might be visited with great advantage if other gentlemen are disposed to follow this excellent example.

The Scientific Curator reports as follows:—

**MAMMALIA.**—Fourteen specimens of North American mammals, mostly Californian species, and six specimens of Australian marsupials, have been procured. These additions made it necessary to re-group and re-arrange the whole of this part of the collection. The collection of antlers has been taken down, cleaned, re-arranged, and conspicuously labelled.

**BIRDS.**—The collection of birds has largely increased, especially in the department of British and exotic species. Ninety-two specimens have been presented by the authorities of the University of Oxford and by the late Rev. F. W. Hope, through Prof. Westwood. Mr. Angas has given an Australian eagle, Mr. Jno. Molson a specimen of the "black-headed plover" of the