

must be undertaken at no very distant date. In such an event, with a national museum erected, it is easy to see what a power for good scientific work such a scheme as that now proposed would be, in the contributions not only of wonderful and valuable materials to every branch of Natural History, but in the great collections of important scientific data that constantly accrue. Throughout all the provinces of this Dominion which I have visited, many persons interested in some one of the various branches of Natural History will be found. Botany, ornithology, entomology, etc., all have their students among persons whose tastes incline them to the study of the many objects of interest which are common to every one of Nature's fields. These observations are, however, checked or hindered by the fact that there are no local societies in most of these places where assistance in determining the specimens can be found, unless, indeed, at considerable expense; and also by a lack of opportunity for presenting the facts obtained, many of which are of very great importance to the scientific world, and by means of which the results can be made known to the host of persons interested in such pursuits. To all such workers the methods of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club must commend themselves heartily, since in the work of this club there is an honest effort made to acquire as well as to impart information in nearly all the branches of Natural History. I can see, therefore, no reason why this society, having already shaken off the local trammels which once bound it according to the terms of its original constitution, should not go on still further and enlarge the scope of its operations to an indefinite extent by incorporating in its ranks the best talent found in our High Schools and other educational centres throughout the length and breadth of our country, as well as all those whose tastes incline them to the study of the natural sciences.

To this it may be objected by some that local societies are already in existence in the several provinces, and therefore there is no field left for extending the scope of our own society in this direction. It is true that such societies exist in cities like Halifax, St. John, Quebec, Toronto, Ottawa and Winnipeg, but of many, and in fact most of these, the work is of a different character to that contemplated by the