

It is intended to issue from this office a series of leaflets on selected studies which may be illustrated by the preparation of special sets, referring as far as possible to British Columbia herbs, shrubs, or trees.

(8.) STORING THE SPECIMENS.

The principal point to attend to in storing specimens is to keep them as nearly as possible dust-proof. It is disappointing to find beautifully prepared and mounted specimens on sheets with the corners or edges soiled with dust. All sorts of so-called dust-proof cases have been devised and are sold for this purpose. Boxes of cardboard, wood, and tin may be obtained from various dealers, and in some instances these serve their purpose if the specimens are not much used; but when it is desired to have them readily accessible, so that specimens can be got without much loss of



Fig. 8. Showing the structure of the British Columbia herbarium cases at present in use.

time and without unduly disturbing other specimens, some form of herbarium case is necessary. Drawers are of practically no use, and sets of shelves with glass or wooden doors are equally useless, because the opening and closing of the drawers or doors causes a suction which draws in dust that has settled in the seams.

The method at present in use in storing the Provincial Herbarium is the result of twenty years' experience with different kinds of herbarium cases, and can be recommended for their efficiency, economy, and, above all, for their simplicity. They may be made by the boys in the manual-training classes; indeed, there is no reason why any one with two or three ordinary joiner's tools should not be able to make them.

They are shown in Fig. 8, and each consists of two pieces of wood 1 inch thick by 1 foot $7\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide by 5 feet $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches high, forming the sides; thirteen pieces of wood $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick by 1 foot 7 inches wide by 13 inches long, forming twelve shelves and the top of the case.