

future occasion. And much more so is this the case when original descriptions or discoveries have to be recorded for the use of others. A concise style and an accurate use of exact words are then absolutely necessary, and by so much as this is acquired to that extent will the work of any student be useful to science. A necessary part of thorough investigation in any branch of Natural History is the formation of a collection by which specimens are always on hand for examination, and in no way are the principles I have alluded to better exemplified. In the very collecting of the material the faculty of observation is cultivated and developed, the power to discriminate between species and to appreciate minute differences is attained.

The specimens when identified must then be carefully and neatly arranged and classified. Now all these are exercises of great use in properly training a mind to methods of thought which can be easily applied in any vocation of life when and wherever required. And it is not necessary nor even advisable to carry any of these studies (when used as a training for the mind) to a great length, we cannot all be Darwins or Lubbocks or Grays—no, the very elements of any branch of science are sufficient as the means for the practice of this intellectual training.

But in addition to these direct advantages there are also some of a more general nature to which, for a moment or two longer, I will draw your attention.

As the great aim in life of all human beings is the pursuit of happiness, I would mention first the pleasure it adds to life. No one who is not acquainted with the common objects of the woods and fields can conceive the keen delight experienced by a naturalist, when after the long imprisonment of our tedious winter, he is able again to go forth into the fields to look for the first appearance of our lovely spring flowers, to see the bursting of the buds and to listen to the call notes of the first birds, sweet harbingers of the happy summer time to come. To such a one all these are old friends, and the pleasure of greeting them year by year as they show their faces with beauty always fresh and new is not less than that experienced when we meet human friends from whom we have been separated for a long time, but with whom,