

materials, oils, fibres for spinning and paper-making, &c. Even in the midst of the city of Kingston, growing on vacant lots, and in court yards, there are drug-plants enough to stock a Liverpool warehouse. Such will no doubt be brought into use when better known, and thus an increase will be effected in the production of the country.

Two things are necessary for the successful prosecution of such researches—a good botanical library and a good herbarium. During the last year botanical works of great value have been added to the library of Queen's College, and these, together with others in private hands, which will be accessible to members of the Society, embrace almost all the works that have a direct bearing on the Canadian flora. There is now laid in Kingston the basis of a botanical library, which it will be the object of this Society to foster, by additions obtained by purchase or exchange with other scientific bodies, provided a suitable arrangement is made with the University authorities. With respect to a herbarium, or collection of dried plants, this is highly regarded by every Botanical Society as absolutely necessary to enable members to refer specimens correctly to their species. It will therefore be satisfactory to know that arrangements are now in progress, whereby the herbarium, presently attached to the Natural History of Queen's College, will be re-arranged in a convenient room, so as to become available for this purpose. The Herbarium embraces a representation of the Floras of Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia, and is especially rich in American species; it has been named with great care, under favorable circumstances, many of the specimens, in difficult and obscure families, having passed through the hands of the best botanists as Balfour, Greville, Gray, Babington, Heldreich, Hooker, Lindlay, Bruch, andimper, Syme, Wilson, Berkeley, Moore, Mitchell, Tuckermann, Carrington, Watson, Lowe, Gray, Harvey, Leighton, and other authorities in nomenclature. In addition to such specimens as the above, there is now an abundance of excellent Microscopes in Queen's College, with all needful apparatus for the prosecution of minute researches and microscopical analysis.

It will be observed that we propose to occupy a new field of research, to cut a new sod that hitherto been walked over by Canadians in comparative neglect. And, as before cultivation can take place, a clearance must be made, have endeavored to answer some of the objections that might be started to the formation of a Society, and to point out the nature of the ground which it proposes to occupy. While referring to other Societies the discussion of the general questions of science, and to special studies their peculiar topics, we propose to employ the Botanical Society as an instrument for the collection of facts and the working out of details, which are of immediate interest to the botanist alone, but of the greatest impor-

tance in leading to correct results in general science. Scientific Societies on a broader basis have too often degenerated into popular institutions, calculated rather for the amusement of the many, than for the encouragement and aid of the few who are engaged in the prosecution of original discovery. We shall be guarded against such a result, in a great measure, by the special object of our Institution, but it will be needful, also, while we attempt to spread a taste for Botany, and to diffuse correct information as to its objects, its discoveries, and its useful applications, that we should seek rather to bring our members and the public into scientific modes of thought and expression, than to allow our Society to yield up its scientific character to suit the popular taste. There is much reason to believe that the want of an organization of this kind, whose duty it is to collect and record facts and discoveries, has been the means of losing to science materials of great value. There have been casual residents in Canada, at different times, who have made collections of greater or less extent, and who have, in some cases, carried out special investigations in Botany, without leaving any printed record of their labors. Some of these may still be rescued from oblivion; but there are also other observations and discoveries made by present residents in the country which, we may confidently hope, will be made available to the Society's purposes. Professor Williamson's long residence in Kingston has enabled him to make an extensive series of observations on our local flora, which are of the greatest interest, and other Professors of Queen's College have followed his example. Some of our graduates and students have also, of late years, made collections of greater or less extent, during their vacation residence in different parts of the country. The neighborhood of Kingston and the adjoining islands have been investigated by Mr. Andrew T. Drummond, B.A., who obtained a prize for his valuable collection, in the Natural History Class, two years ago. Dr. Dupuis has collected the plants of the rear of Frontenac and Earnestown, while Newboro', Perth, the Ottawa country have each their collectors. Dr. Giles has, I believe, been devoting special attention to lichens. Mr. Schultz has had an opportunity, during the past season, of botanizing the Red River Settlement, and I have received notices of collections, formed by our students in other distant localities, that may prove of great interest. Circumstances such as these give us reason to hope that our efforts to raise up a Botanical Society will be attended with success, and that its labors will be beneficial in leading to a more extended knowledge of the indigenous productions of Canada.

The objects sought by the establishment of a Botanical Society in this country are of great importance, both in a scientific and economical point of view. The field is broad, and the soil is rich. The extent to which we can cultivate it will depend entirely upon the number of in-