

of members who will devote themselves systematically to scientific pursuits; but I think there is every reason to believe that the efforts of this Society are really advancing the cause of Science, and that its influence is becoming extended, and its labours more and more appreciated by the public. There are several ways in which the Society seeks to advance its work, and bring its influence to bear upon the public mind. First there is the Museum which occupies all the upper part of this building, and has received some very valuable additions recently, which will be noticed more particularly in the Report. This offers many objects of great interest in various departments, and has been visited by far larger numbers than in any previous year. Then there is the Somerville course of lectures during the Winter free to the public, and which have attracted such immense crowds this year that great numbers of persons have been unable to gain admittance. These Lectures bear in general a popular character; while at the monthly meetings of the Society there have been a number of very able and scientific papers read on various subjects. And lastly in order to give permanence to its labours, and disseminate its usefulness, the Society superintends a bi-monthly periodical, under the title of "*The Canadian Naturalist*." As to the Lectures delivered during the last year, they were attended by such large audiences, and were so well appreciated at the time, that I will not now delay you by alluding to them in detail. But the monthly meetings of the Society, which are truly the periods of its really scientific work, are not so largely attended, nor I think appreciated, as they deserve. And I should wish to mention some of the many interesting papers which have been read and discussed by the members on these occasions; reminding you that these meetings are open to all members of the Society, and to all of their friends, ladies as well as gentlemen, whom they may wish to introduce.

#### GEOLOGICAL PAPERS.

1. *Poole, on Coal Field of Pictou*.—Giving many valuable new facts on a very important Coal district; a colossal specimen of the produce of which was exhibited in Montreal last summer at the great Industrial Exhibition.
2. *Honyman, on new Localities of Fossils in Silurian rocks of Nova Scotia*.—Facts supplementary to, and extending those in Principal Dawson's paper of last year.
3. *Billings, on Fossils from Point Levi*.—This paper contained the discoveries on which the changes in the view entertained