

we have not done so much. Even now, it may not be possible for us to put much energy into all. But, it is well, nevertheless, that we should compare what we are doing with what a Society such as ours ought to be doing. For such comparison must result in a desire to do more and better work.

While referring to the many things which we have left undone in the past, I must urge in our behalf that, few though we have been, we would have done much more, and few though we still are, we could look forward with greater expectations, were it not for the smallness of our income. But we are hampered on all sides for want of funds. We ought to have a commodious meeting place with our books on the walls and our working materials easy of access. As it is we have no room we can call our own, but are indebted to one Government official for the use of his office once a month and to another for allowing us standing room for our book cases in a corridor. We ought to have a paid librarian and secretary to take charge of books and instruments and conduct our correspondence, whereas these onerous duties are discharged by volunteers. We ought to be able to stock our Library with books of reference and costly publications of all kinds, whereas the purchase of a new book is a great event in our history. We ought to be able to furnish our members with expensive instruments, whereas, so far, we have been able to purchase but one. Had we the funds at command there are many ways, to which I have not even referred, in which they might be advantageously expended. I may mention the making of grants to assist in defraying the expenses of experimental investigations of great public utility, as for example, the introduction into our Nova Scotian climate of foreign plants useful for manufacturing purposes, and the offering of prizes for memoirs of practical value, as for example, on the raw materials for manufactures which our Province supplies. Such modes of stimulating research have been tried with much success in other countries, and could we adopt them, would doubtless be found equally successful here. Perhaps our Institute has been too backward in the past in making its wants and wishes known. And it may therefore be well that we should let it be known