

I trust I have said sufficient to indicate the future possibilities of this club, and to some of us the time appears to be drawing nigh when even a yet larger field of operations than any heretofore contemplated may be safely entered upon—that is to say, the establishment, not of an international but an inter-provincial science association, which, having its headquarters here in the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Society, may, by means of its widely extended branches, gather together scientific information from every quarter, with many things of great value, which can be here arranged and placed on record. For, though the club has no museum of its own, the museum of the Geological Survey Department will always be only too glad to be the curator of valuable specimens in the several kingdoms of Natural History, and should be the natural receptacle for them. The present museum space is none too great, but some of us as members of the Geological Survey, and all of us as citizens of Ottawa, do not despair of the coming of the time when, upon some one of the beautiful spots in this city, there shall arise the magnificent proportions of a national museum within whose walls shall be gathered together and properly arranged the large and exceedingly valuable collections which are now found in the old building on Sussex street, a building which it is no sacrilege to say, is utterly unworthy of the treasures therein placed, exposed every day as it is to the risk of destruction by fire owing to the character of its surroundings. In this museum of the Geological Department are to be found specimens, not only illustrative of the geological formations and of the mineral wealth of the Dominion, but extensive collections in the branches of ethnology, botany, ornithology, entomology, conchology, etc., collections more extensive by far than the capacity of the building will even now accommodate, and many of which are, as a consequence, laid away in drawers and out-of-the-way places simply for the reason that there is no available space for their display. These collections, moreover, are increasing at a wonderfully rapid rate, as may easily be imagined, from the fact that of the large field staff that go forth every spring each one forwards annually whatever is found illustrative of the field which he is working, so that; of sheer necessity, the erection of a new museum, or the very considerable enlargement of the present one,