

THE ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM OF PALAEONTOLOGY

The Royal Ontario Museum of Palaeontology occupies the central third of the upper floor and is also provided with commodious storage and preparation rooms in the basement. The nucleus around which the Museum has grown to its present dimensions is the large collection presented to the University of Toronto by Sir Edmund Walker about fifteen years ago. By donation, collecting, and purchase the original collections have been extended until, at the present time, the exhibition cases are capable of containing only about two-thirds of the species in the possession of the Museum.

The general arrangement of the specimens is on the alcove system—each alcove being devoted to a branch of invertebrate animals as shown on the accompanying plan. The flat cases contain a systematic series arranged geologically: the individual case in the front of each alcove contains specimens illustrating the morphology and classification of the branch; the high cases separating the alcoves contain specimens of larger size, and series illustrating especial features.

Particular attention has been given to the preparation of descriptive labels for the larger and more important specimens. These labels are primarily intended for the guidance of students, but, as far as possible, they are written without the use of technical terms in order that they may be of service to the general public.

The systematic arrangement is designed mainly for the display of invertebrate fossils. A tour of the galleries should begin at the north alcove of the east gallery, proceed south through this gallery, and then north through the west gallery. In this way the fossils will be seen in the order of their zoological rank.