

which the jockey has just given a preliminary canter that he may "feel his legs" preparatory for his true task, the race, which lies before him. The knowledge he has gained is slight I grant you, but he is not quite in the dark. A foundation has been laid upon which it now becomes his duty to raise a creditable superstructure ; a superstructure, the first step towards which should be the commencement of an herbarium which, however, should be subservient to, or a co-partner with, the highest aim in botanical science, the elucidation of the mysteries of plant-life. Laying such stress as I do on the formation of a collection as an aid to further study, let me for a little call your attention to the advantages to be derived from having one, and the best appliances and methods for accomplishing this.

The use of an herbarium is, in general terms, to have constantly on hand material for study in any class of plants, for, by soaking them in water, dried specimens can be studied almost as easily as fresh. In no other way can we see simultaneously specimens of neighboring species, different states of the same species, and specimens of a species from different localities ; and some of the brightest theories on the distribution of plants have been worked out by the aid of the "hortus siccus" or herbarium. The nomenclature and classification of objects can be best acquired by the constant handling of them, and the price of a good herbarium is incessant vigilance in warding off the attacks of insect pests. But in this vigilance what a throng of pleasant memories is perpetually being called up ; the time and the locality, the surroundings, and, if you were not alone when gathered, your companions. Each specimen represents so much information, and the very mention of its name will recall to mind associations connected with its study. These results from the possession of an herbarium have been so beautifully set forth by Professor Bailey of Brown University that I cannot refrain from quoting his words on the subject.

"In looking them over one sees not alone the specimens themselves, but the locality in which they were gathered. Many an incident of his life, the memory of which has long since become dormant will be re-awakened as by an enchanter's wand. He will thread the forest paths gay with flowers ; he will pause in imagina-