

in observing the trunks, branches and buds of trees and shrubs. Winter is, however, the time pre-eminently fitted for herbarium work, preserving, mounting, labelling, cataloguing, and, if the necessary appliances are obtainable, laboratory work with the microscope.

The best place to begin collecting is where you live. Be your abode where it may there are surely some plant rarities near it, and the first goal to struggle for is a thorough knowledge of the resources of your own vicinity. When you have made a special study of the plants there you may easily extend your researches. If on your excursions you can have the company of some older botanist so much the better, since from him you can get the names of the plants you gather and the prominent characters on which the naming is founded. I would, however, strongly advise you always to take home one or two unnamed specimens, on which to practice analysis, for it is only by such practice you can ever become so familiar with the orders as to be able to, pretty nearly, locate strange ones at a glance. The accumulation of a mass of unnamed plants is to be avoided, lest a pleasant task become a wearisome labor, inspiring only disgust. Make it a rule to get your specimens named as soon as possible. If you have no one near to whom you can show them, enter into correspondence with some botanist and arrange with him to name the packets you may send him from time to time. You need not fear that your letter asking the favor will be unanswered. The wonderful spirit of fellowship, comradeship if I may call it so, existing among scientists, and evinced by their willingness to lend a helping hand to even the humblest votary, is to me one of the greatest charms in scientific pursuits. But here a word of warning,—never send scraps of plants to be named, for though a good botanist can often identify them, it is unfair to ask him. His time is too valuable to be spent in guessing riddles. Courtesy also demands that in all correspondence the seeker after information should enclose stamps for return postage. In collecting a specimen for yourself, if it be at all rare, always, if possible, gather duplicates to be used in exchange. Under no consideration, however, obliterate a rare species from any locality, and do not even make its whereabouts known to any except true lovers of the science. There are vandals, who, through mere vanity, would not hesitate to destroy the last survivor of a species; nor would they do it only unthinkingly. From the duplicates of the best things around you a large

variety of plant
in making a collection
about with them
in your own collection
from other researchers
with scientists
made, and never
very rare. A
his specimens
criticism and
preserve the collection
but after this
asks for it. I
in your collection
destroy any to
The man who
away every specimen
like a miser's
correctly name
poisoned or not
or are positively
of your duplicates
brother collector

The last step
should be only
many unsolved
observation and
tion by original
known of the last
example, little is
and in some cases
only considered
more or less, we
ment in many cases
cross-fertilization
seed, but in man
perform the work
far more fruitful