

icates an interest in these subjects which it is hoped will be permanent and lead to the establishment of local museums in every centre of population in the country, the smaller as well as the greater. In many cases the local museum must cover both natural and civil history,—minerals, plants, animals, pre-historic remains and historical relics. The grouping in one museum of these widely different objects seems at first to be inappropriate, but it is perfectly proper and quite possible to carry out.

In forming a local museum, it should be decided at the outset exactly what is to be done,—what ground is to be covered,—and when decided, every temptation to go beyond these limits should be firmly resisted. Local and general collections should never be mixed and the objects in each department should be arranged in different cases or otherwise distinctly separated.

But specimens are nearly always given before the cases to hold them are obtained, in fact, it is usually the gift of a collection, or the offer of one, which suggests the museum and even the formation of the society itself. The president of a well known county society was in the habit of saying that every person who gives a book to a library ought to give a dollar with it to shelve it and keep it in order, a rule which may be applied with equal propriety to the museum specimen as to the book, but a rule impossible to carry out in either case, for the donor usually thinks that he has done enough in giving the object and would feel insulted at the suggestion of a contribution of money to provide for its keeping.

Museum cases are much more expensive than is generally supposed and temporary ones may be hired or borrowed which will answer the purpose until funds can be raised to obtain permanent cases. Rather than expose delicate objects to dust and injury upon open shelves it is far better to pack them away in drawers and boxes until suitable glass cases can be provided. It is imperative that the cases should have more glass than wood in their construction. A collection comes to mind, housed in heavy, over ornamented, black walnut cases, which were given to an institution by a generous friend,—his own selection. They were so dark and exposed so little surface of glass that the specimens