

such assistance as we can in adding to his collections. If the fact that we do make efforts in this direction gives us the right to make suggestions, we might suggest that since the Legislature has provided the collections and a curator to look after them, it should complete its work by providing a local habitation in which they might be advantageously exhibited. The room at present set apart for this purpose is so small that a study of the specimens which it contains is attended by great difficulty, while the arrangement of typical collections for the use of students of the elements of Natural Science is well nigh impossible; and thus the very object with which the collections have been made is to a large extent rendered unattainable by the lack of suitable accommodation. Apart from this defect, however, it is a matter of great consequence to our Society that the Legislature has taken off its hands the work of forming a Museum. For it is, I believe, the experience of local scientific societies in Great Britain, that the expenses connected with the maintenance of Museums are in general too heavy for them, and that too often they are crushed by the weight of the material which they collect.

Thirdly, it is necessary that investigators should have means of informing themselves of the progress which Natural Science is making in other countries, and it thus becomes the duty of the Institute to collect a Library of scientific publications giving accounts of what is being done in Natural Science all over the world. Could such publications be obtained only by purchase, it would be quite impossible for the Institute with its limited income to form any adequate collection of the kind referred to. But fortunately a large portion of them can be obtained at slight expense so long as we exhibit a reasonable activity ourselves and continue to publish Transactions of scientific value. For, as stated above, foreign Societies will in that case be ready and willing to send us their publications in exchange for ours. The value of such publications, not only to the scientific investigator but also to the practical man engaged in pursuits whose methods improve with the increase of our knowledge of Natural Science, such as mining, agriculture, fishing, manufactures, etc., cannot be over-estimated; and from this point of view alone it is important