

it to enable him to preserve it on a rectangular block, which will display well in his cabinet. Before he has completed his work a fissure develops which cuts across the specimen and removes perhaps a third of it. To his mind this specimen is spoiled. He throws away the separated fragment, and disappointedly leaves his find in order to search for another. I cannot but contrast this procedure with that of a collector I well remember. In breaking off a part of a ledge some portions of a rare trilobite were discovered. Before attempting to remove the rest of the specimen this collector first secured all fallen fragments which preserved any portion of it, and fastened them to the removed piece with a little glue. The portion still remaining in the cliff edge was next secured and the whole carefully wrapped in paper and tied together. I recall an instance in which a specimen, after being freed from its matrix in the workshop, showed the loss of a portion of a remarkably long caudal spine. In the following year the original collector made a long journey back to the quarry, found the place from which the specimen was taken, and secured the rest of the imbedded spine.

Attention is called to the destructive work of the amateur, because he outnumbers the experienced collector ten to one, and not only destroys much valuable matter in the field, but oftentimes loses his interest in his own collection, and allows it finally to go the way of all waste. Particularly is this true in the neighbourhood of certain boys' summer camps, where "nature study" leads them afield with their "councillors," and where indiscriminate collecting is encouraged. The damage inflicted by the amateur is wholly unintentional, and the more experienced worker has but to take an interest in the younger collectors to make them very helpful allies.

The amateur is not the only person who injures the field in which he operates. Many experienced collectors of the "second type" still have the dominant idea that well-nigh perfect specimens are alone worth saving. This, to my knowledge, has led some of them to crush with the hammer certain finds that they had stopped to examine and found defective. This impulse to destroy in the field may arise from disappointment, or from the desire to avoid being misled at a subsequent visit.

To the above loss we must add that which often occurs when the "cabinet" is re-arranged and many specimens thrown away. Because of the great difference in point of view between collectors of the second and third types, this loss may be a serious one.

Some will doubtless think the picture overdrawn. To their minds the supply of fossil forms is practically inexhaustable.