

The time and labor requisite for collecting, identifying and mounting specimens and for measuring trees in such an investigation is not great. Nor is the collection of specimens a necessary condition of satisfactory work. The study of the living organism from the genetic functional standpoint is of much greater value than the mechanical examination of dead specimens. One of the best features of such work is that it presents obstacles which furnish a natural stimulus to endeavor and which when overcome afford genuine satisfaction. Where serious difficulty is presented and individual observation and text-books prove inadequate, the Canadian Government has wisely made provision for all emergencies by providing trained specialists, who are able and willing to answer questions submitted to them and to whom inquiry can be sent postage free. In this connection my best thanks are due to Dr. Fletcher, of the Experimental Farm at Ottawa, who not only supervised the classification made, but also made a personal inspection of the locality studied.

The essential requirement of a university post-graduate dissertation is that it must add something, no matter how little, to the sum total of human knowledge. Measured by this criterion such an investigation as the foregoing, be it ever so limited in scope or unpretentious in character, at once becomes important, for one finds oneself doing that which has been done by no one else, and if the work be honestly performed and the records accurately kept, the information gained (although apparently trivial) may prove to be of genuine public service in future interpretation.

Another of the advantages of such definite research work is that it is adapted to the stage of development reached by the adult learner who, although he has omitted Nature Study in early life, has acquired as the result of natural growth and activity in other studies a scientific attitude of mind which causes him to appreciate the meaning and value of the laboratory method and to prefer it to a more superficial treatment.

The experience of the Ottawa Normal students in the study of birds affords practical illustration of this fact. For a number of years each student has been asked to learn the identification