

## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

be preserved, and there should be a liberality sufficient to publish in some permanent form that which is original and which possesses scientific value in their researches.

And I will now consider the particular needs of our own society, with a few suggestions:

(1) We need to enlarge and complete our local collections in every possible way. To do that we must have more workers. The example of one of our members, who has taken up the study of entomology recently, and has presented to the society a fine collection of insects obtained in the city and vicinity, is worthy of imitation. We should have a more complete collection of the fishes that are found in our rivers and bays, and in nearly all the departments of our museum, excellent as it is in many respects, we need additions.

(2) We need a closer union and cooperation among scientific workers throughout the province. We should try to meet once a year, at least, with as many of these workers as possible for mutual stimulation and encouragement. If we could extend the idea of our summer camp so as to include the members of other societies, and meet in chosen places from year to year, there is no doubt that it would increase the influence of each society, and be a great help to its membership.

(3) We want a home. We would be content with a modest building in some central locality. It need not be large, but should be carefully planned to allow of a symmetrical extension in the future, when our needs and our benefactions shall both be greater. To provide the nucleus for this building fund, I think we should take the bequest of our late president, Dr. Botsford, and devote it sacredly to this purpose. When others see that we are in earnest about this matter they will come to our assistance, and we will have what we should have had long ago—a suitable building. To meet running expenses we should devote our membership fees, and these only, to that object. If they are not adequate, we ought to increase our ordinary membership, as the ladies have just done the associate membership. Our grant from government is barely

sufficient to pay the small expense of publishing our bulletin. Our annual bulletin should be larger and include some of what has to be published in other ways, such as leaflets made up from papers published in the press. A great deal of the work done by our members is published in the proceedings of the Royal Society, where it appeals to a larger circle of readers. But there must always be a great deal published that is of a purely local character, and our bulletin at present is not sufficient to give this to the public in a permanent form. An addition to our government grant is required to increase the value of our publication.

(4) We need a permanent endowment, apart from our building fund, that would provide means to make our museum and collections more available than they are at present for the use of science and the public and educational needs. Our museum requires the services of a trained scientist, one who knows how to put in proper shape and apply its treasures so that they will be of value both for training and experiment.

If we had \$15,000 in addition to the Botsford bequest, we could put up a building that would do for many years and be a secure repository for our valuable collections. If we had an endowment of \$25,000, it would probably secure for our society the services of a well qualified curator.

Some one may say: What is the use of talking of \$40,000 for the Natural History Society? We have been talking of a building for years and nothing has come of it. Yes, but the citizens of Davenport—"commercial and unsympathetic"—did far more than this, and where it has been done it can be done again, especially under some circumstances more favorable than in that western city. An endowment of \$25,000 from many monied men in this city would scarcely be felt by them, and would be such a stimulus to science here that others would subscribe the money needful for a building. Well, let us have faith that it will be done, and be done soon. I doubt not but that there were some citizens of Davenport who shook their heads and said "impossible"—but it was done.