

servable, taking that word in its ordinary acceptation. The work of the Geological Survey is of various kinds. In its inception it was held to include more particularly the study of the rock crust of the earth, and the determination of its mineral resources, since the relations between these two subjects are exceedingly close. Gradually attention was directed to the study of plants and insects, collections of these being occasionally made by some assistant attached to one of the regular exploring parties. Chemistry, which embraced not only the analysis or the assay of important ores, but of rocks as well, together with the analysis of mineral waters, and other kindred subjects also received a large amount of attention. But the rapid development and extension of the country and its various interests have in time necessitated a corresponding change in the operations of the Survey, so that it has gradually come to embrace not only Geology, Paleontology, Chemistry and Topography, but the Natural History of the country as well, including the subjects of Botany, Ornithology, Entomology, Zoology, Ethnology, Mining Statistics, and other kindred subjects—the proper carrying out of which is, however, at the present time very seriously interfered with, not only by great lack of space for displaying collections when made, but by a lack also of workers in the several fields.

In the American Survey the different lines of work are carried on in much the same way as the Canadian department, though on a much more elaborate scale. Thus the work of the interior department is arranged under certain divisions, of which the principal are those of Topography or Geography, Geology, Paleontology, Mining Statistics and Technology, Chemistry and Physics, Illustrations, Library and Documents, &c. Of these the topographical division has charge of the surveys proper, and the preparation of the maps connected therewith, with the care of the instruments, &c., and for the year 1887-88 their field parties were distributed over twenty states, extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The geological work is also arranged in divisions, of which there are thirteen, named principally on grounds of location, as the Atlantic Coast division, the Mountain division, &c., but also in some cases from the character of the work, such as the division of *Archæan geology*.

In paleontology also the work is specialized, and instead of pla-