

founded in several of the larger American cities and in some of the smaller ones and in many towns local historical societies have begun museums. Libraries, however, have increased more rapidly than ever before, until it is our boast, here in Massachusetts, that there is not a single inhabitant who has not free access to a public library. It is very desirable, therefore, that attention should be called to the formation of museums.

As art museums and certain specialized museums are usually established by endowment and are placed in the hands of boards of trustees, the museums most likely to be formed or which require consideration at this time are the educational museum of natural history (taken in its widest sense to include mineralogy, geology, archæology and ethnology, as well as the usual branches of zoology and botany), which is generally connected with some school or college, and the local museum illustrating the fauna, flora, etc., of some definite area, usually with political rather than natural boundaries, and nearly always the offspring of a local society or club.

It is hardly necessary here to suggest that the educational museum should contain well balanced collections, covering all of the departments of science within its scope in due proportions, that it should practically be a condensed encyclopædia illustrated by type specimens. Such a collection should be attractively arranged and well labelled, with copious references to books and papers treating of the specimens it contains on the groups to which they belong. Large special collections should not be merged in a museum of this sort, they should be kept in separate rooms or, better still, in separate buildings. The educational museum may be made equally perfect in its way whether it fills a single small room or occupies a series of large halls, so long as the relative proportions of its departments are rigidly adhered to.

But the museum most likely to be established at the present time is the local museum. The formation of the many local historical societies, taken in connection with the increasing interest in the study of plants and birds, and the great demand and consequently the great supply of the so called "nature books," in-