

and persons who have scientific inclinations but no extensive knowledge, may therefore henceforth attend our meetings with the assurance that the time devoted to them will not be thrown away.

The third department of our work consists in providing for investigators to as great an extent as possible the means of investigation. And this we are doing with greater or less success in a variety of ways.

First, it is above all things necessary that investigators should know all that has been already discovered in connection with the Natural Science of the Province; and this involves the publication, from time to time, of such papers read before the Institute, as may be considered to contain new and well established results. Hence for the last quarter of a century our "Proceedings and Transactions" have been published year by year. It is often difficult to determine whether or not the results contained in any paper are really new and really well established, and doubtless occasionally papers are published whose contents do not possess these characteristics. But on the whole our Transactions will be found to be a record of continuous advances made in the knowledge of the Natural Science of Nova Scotia; and it is a source of legitimate gratification to us to find that scientific men and scientific societies all over the world welcome our publications gladly, and are ready to send us in exchange for them, publications, I will not say of much greater value, but certainly of much greater magnitude and of much greater cost.

Secondly, it is necessary that investigators should have access to collections of specimens of the various species of plants, animals, minerals, etc., which have so far been discovered in Nova Scotia, together with similar specimens found in other countries, for purposes of comparison. And it is therefore the duty of the Institute to see that the Province possesses a well filled and well arranged museum. Fortunately, however, this part of our work has been to a large extent taken out of our hands by an intelligent Legislature which itself has provided the public with a museum, and has put an experienced scientific man at its head; and our work in this department, therefore, consists in giving him