

Ice-bound and snow-covered, then, as those northern regions are during the long winter, they yet offer to the observer a rich field where nature reveals the living objects she has placed there ; and the opportunities to observe which the short milder season affords, are many. It is primordially a place for a field-naturalist: a place, moreover, where the mind is aroused to the urgent need on the part of naturalists (and this the more so on account of the present state of zoological knowledge) for closer and deeper observations, whatever the nature of their respective researches may happen to be. In this connection, a few preliminary remarks may be in place, and are offered suggestive of what may be expected in an address which purports to deal with animal forms many of which have had little if any attention, and which are made in order to show that as yet the work of a naturalist in the Hudson Bay region and in the more northern and eastern locations, is that of a pioneer.

The mere closet naturalist lacks the experience of the field naturalist. Were one, it is true, to confine himself to a laboratory or a library, having little desire to go out of doors, were he simply to read popular works on natural history, or to pore over more advanced zoological treatises, he might familiarise his mind with general theories of classification, or with outlines of comparative structure. In other words, a student of this sort might gain a fairly accurate conception of the sub-kingdoms into which the animal creation is divisible. But if he thus limited his studies, having little ambition to walk even a mile from his home in order to stroll through the woods or along the banks of a stream, his knowledge would be curtailed and inaccurate. On the other hand, one who values the recorded researches of others, and who, whilst not dependent upon books, reads or refers to them, knowing that they contain many corroborated facts concerning the forms and habits of animals ; but who at the same time is independent enough to follow living beings to their haunts, to learn at first hand from themselves, will find his stock of information accumulating and resting upon a surer basis. Nevertheless, one who carries on original researches will discover how little, relatively, he knows, and the more deeply he pursues knowledge in the realms of natural history, the more he will see,