

## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

late and interest in natural science the students of our schools who have a scientific bent we shall find out and encourage our future workers in science. It was such seed that fell into young Putnam's mind that brought such an abundant harvest. From a talk about the society he was led to visit the rooms and join in the collecting trips. He became interested in entomology. He gathered a collection of 25,000 specimens, representing over 8,000 species, and containing many new to science. He is almost the sole authority on one family of insects, and though but 25 years of age at his death, and always weak in body, he had accomplished in his short but busy and useful life what few stronger men are able to accomplish in long years. He was accustomed to say: "If others are unwilling to do what ought to be done, I must." In this instance of a busy and well directed life there is surely an incentive as well as duty in a society such as yours to seek to interest the young in the work to be done around them, which ought to be done and which others are unwilling or unable to do—work that requires youthful enthusiasm and a love for investigation. There are few perhaps who have a Putnam's genius for investigation, but there are many young people in every community who could do excellent original work under proper direction. There is a place for these young persons in our society, and for their parents as well. We want the aid of hundreds of pairs of sharp intelligent eyes to assist in revealing the secrets of nature around us, to explore the woods, the streams, the shores, and make them yield the treasures of plant and animal life with which they are abounding, and of which we know so little. We want others to explore with hammer and chisel the rocks in and about our city, and make them yield new chapters in that wonderful geological history that our geologists have begun, but which they cannot complete. It is such work as theirs that is an inspiration to the young—and it will inspire them if we seek to give direction to their youthful activities, not only by instruction in these rooms, but by leading them afield and helping to give

a practical turn to their inquiries.

We have pleasant recollections of our outing at St. Martins the past summer, when under the leadership of Dr. Matthew, Dr. Ganong, Prof. Duff and others, an impetus was given to the study of natural science, which we hope will lead to the organization soon of a branch natural history society there. There is a fine opportunity for some excellent work to be done in the rugged and interesting country that surrounds the beautiful village, and there is some good material, especially among the young people, to make an active society.

The Sussex Natural History Society, formed a few months ago, had its origin in a plan to gather in a central place in the county a museum of its natural history products. Its members, now numbering over 30, are preparing themselves in their winter meetings to do some practical work in the spring. The society has its headquarters in the Sussex Grammar School, many of whose students come from a distance. All seem to be in earnest to carry out the purposes of the society.

The natural history societies of Fredericton and Chatham have been longer in existence, have already a good membership, and include members who possess special knowledge, and have attained distinction in their chosen subjects.

There seems a bright outlook for them for the special work which our own society and kindred ones in this province are seeking to do. But we must keep in view a few guiding principles, or there will be confusion and ineffective work. Those who are leaders must be the instructors, guides and counsellors of the younger members, and unselfishly give their efforts to add to the knowledge and inspire enthusiasm in the younger and inexperienced members. The special object of each society should be to study and make collections of the natural history of its own immediate neighborhood. To do this requires knowledge, experience, perseverance. There should be interest enough on the part of the general public in these centres in which societies are already or are about to be established, to provide rooms where the collections may