

School room may have its museum. A cheap inflammable building may be a more useful museum building than a fire-proof structure costing millions. In an inflammable building it would not be wise to store valuable material, but in it could be displayed labels, pictures, maps and books illustrated by such cheap and common specimens as elm leaves, squash seeds, broken pebbles, English sparrows, mice, or the skull of a dog. A museum of such specimens, accompanied by appropriate labels, books, maps, pictures and models, might easily be of more service to a community than some existing museums costing say ten times as much.

Case problems may delay curators not months but years. First there is the discussion as to what kind of a case and how to make it dust proof; what it should be made of, the color the back-ground is to be painted, or whether burlap will be used instead of paint. In this way, while waiting for cases, years go by. People who would use the museum grow old and die. Children who have time in their receptive condition of mind to profit most in the museum grow up and have their time occupied by necessary labor. Their minds become blunted to the useful impressions which they might gain in the museum, and still the museum curator has not secured the case he needs for the exhibit in time to benefit all the classes of people, from the old people to the school children. As a matter of fact, all these people could have gotten the maximum amount of benefit from the museum, had the specimens been exhibited without any case at all, on the wall, on tables, on the floor, or even out in the big out-door world, had there been sufficient and appropriate labelling. Thus the kind of material and color of case seems to have little to do with the usefulness of a museum. I have seen museums with black cases, white cases, reddish cases, yellowish cases and portions of museums with no cases at all, and every one of these had some exhibits that were superior in graphic usefulness to some class of the public than were any other exhibits known to me. No doubt the back-grounds should be carefully considered, certain colors being better than others. Perhaps the relationship of colors or general harmony and the relationship of light and a subdued quietness of color are of extreme importance, but visitors have been in a museum where the cases were entirely white, been interested and obtained useful information some little time before noticing whether the cases were white or black. While black cases may not be advisable, several of our best museums have them, and in some instances one sees the exhibit before it is realized that the case is black. No doubt either a white or a black case may