

## NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY OF NOVA SCOTIA.

Is it not a good thing to have some ultimate object or aim in view, something to help us keep on our course and make a straight line? Why then should not the teachers of the Province, while directing nature study in the schools, accomplish incidentally another work, the survey of every department of its natural history before our course is done.

Already some very good work is being done in botany, especially with the flowering plants. Why should not every teacher who has the taste, and every county academy and leading high school be the centre of such exploration? The botany, the zoology, the geology, the meteorology, and the special subdivisions and extensions of these subjects ultimately could be effectively undertaken; and the school collections and museums might effectively represent in scientific order the work of exploration completed.

At the same time as complete local lists as possible of every thing in each locality might be gradually compiled and published from time to time by our scientific societies, or even in a portion of our educational press.

In the formation of lists it is desirable that the same nomenclature should be used by all. In botany we might keep to the nomenclature of the last edition of Gray's Manual, so long at least as the New England States and other provinces of Canada follow the same. "Britton and Brown" is in the opinion of many a better text for nomenclature; but we must go nearly as far south as New York before we come completely under the influence of these. At least when lists are compiled, they should be specified as being in the nomenclature of the one or the other.

Jordan's Manual would be the most convenient standard of nomenclature for our vertebrata. And in each of the other departments the workers might after determining to make a start have a conference as to the best standard of nomenclature to follow. All using the same nomenclature, it would be a comparatively simple matter to compile the numerous local lists which we may ultimately expect into a general provincial list.

The Marine Biological Laboratory of Canada has been stationed for the last two years at Canso; but there was scarcely any representation from Nova Scotia there. Last summer C. B. Robinson, B. A., of the Pictou Academy, worked for a few weeks. But there are very few prepared to do even a small range of work at such a station. But such work as is done at such a station, might to a small extent be conducted at each centre of population along the coast; while the better schools inland could make a speciality of their own surroundings.

In the province of New Brunswick an attempt is being made to work up the natural history of the country as was intimated in the *Educational Review*, and in a circular which was sent to those known to be interested in natural history work.

The JOURNAL OF EDUCATION might prove of service by intimating the lines on which work might be most effectively begun, and by the announcement of the standard texts, etc., to be obtained. In the texts recommended to schools only such have been mentioned as have already been inquired about. To make a complete list of books of reference requires more time than the Education Department has hitherto been able to give to this matter; but if there should be a demand such work might be put on the "urgency paper." The Superintendent of Education is willing to aid those who may take an interest in such work, and will be glad to receive suggestions.