

thorough understanding of a species, it is necessary to know the plant in all its parts and in all its different stages of development. Specimens should be collected illustrating all these points, and should be chosen, first of all, with an idea of presenting the average development and typical form of the species. Dwarfed or gigantic specimens should be shown only as indicative of the range of variation. There seems to be a tendency with beginners to collect specimens with unusually large leaves or flowers, which specially strike them, or dwarfed or imperfect specimens, "chips," which are easy to preserve and mount, but which give little information when referred to in a collection. Separate leaves or plants without flowers or fruit should not be included, unless these parts are otherwise shown. Each species should be represented, if its average size will permit of this, by a specimen showing the root, the stem, the leaves both from the root and on the stem, the flowers and the fruit. In large plants, as in the case of coarse-growing herbaceous plants, shrubs and trees, portions must be selected illustrating the various parts. In order that the collection may be of the greatest use, it is necessary to label carefully and neatly every specimen, giving the name, the habitat or nature of the place where found, the exact locality, so that if necessary further specimens may be collected, and the date of gathering, so that the time of flowering and seeding may be known. Valuable additions to a collection of plants are specimens of the seeds and of seedlings showing the seed leaves. In the matter of mounting and labelling, neatness and uniformity are very essential. Specimens should be dried quickly, so as to preserve the colour as much as possible, and in a natural manner, so that the flowers may take the same positions as when the plant was growing, and so that the undersides of some of the leaves may be seen. In preserving a plant, it should be neatly arranged, when first pressed, between the folds of a single sheet of thin paper, once folded. This should then be placed between driers of absorbent paper, which for a few days must be changed every day, and dry sheets substituted, without disturbing the plant in its folder. On the second day the specimens should be examined to see that all the characters of the plant are shown, and, if they are not, parts may be moved a little to improve the arrangement; but after that the specimen should not be disturbed until it is quite dry, when it may be taken out and mounted permanently on paper thick enough to allow of examination without breaking the specimen. Each plant should have a separate sheet to itself, and all the mounting paper in a collection should be of the same size and labelled in the same