

arrived at arranged and presented at the winter sessions, after which the final results can be presented to the Royal Society of Canada in a series of papers which would form a most valuable contribution to our store of scientific knowledge, and which would be, by this society, put on record, and in case of doubtful points, could there be further discussed and the points in dispute carefully considered and settled. The question, then, of extending our membership in the way just indicated is one which I feel should be earnestly and speedily considered, and I am convinced that such a course will be conducive to the highest possible gain to our club as a whole and to the furtherance of scientific investigation throughout the Dominion.

I have had considerable difficulty in arriving at any conclusion as to what would be most profitable to present to the Club's consideration to-night in this opening address; for I think it will be unnecessary to designate the few remarks I may have to make by the title of lecture. You will see by reference to the programme of our winter courses, both for the evening and afternoon lectures, that there is an unusually good variety of material, embracing the Animal, Vegetable and Mineral Kingdoms. Among the latter we shall, I trust, have the pleasure of learning about the mode of occurrence, peculiarities and distribution of that important substance, mineral phosphate, concerning which Mr. Lainson Wills has kindly promised to give us some information, while in the department of Canadian gems we may also expect a treat in the contemplation of really beautiful things; for although Canada cannot as yet produce the diamond, the ruby or the emerald, she can furnish exquisite gems for personal ornament or for interior decoration, as you will be enabled to testify after seeing the exhibit which will, doubtless, be made on that occasion. The mode of occurrence and characteristics of that very peculiar mineral asbestos, are also to be described. In the department of Natural History you will hear our ever-welcome friend, Mr. Lett, who will tell us of the habits and peculiarities of the beaver, an animal now unfortunately rapidly becoming extinct in Eastern Canada owing to the fact that it is hunted very often without regard to proper observance of close seasons; while botany, in the more familiar form to many of garden decoration, will be discussed by one of the staff of the Central Experimental Farm. In