

prone to get into a hurried way of making notes, under the idea that they are for his own use only, and that he will readily recollect any facts omitted at the time. This is a great mistake. Notes are not often required immediately, because every circumstance connected with the subject is fresh in the memory. But it sometimes happens that weeks, months or years after, in pursuing some branch of study, the exact facts then observed are required; and I know nothing more disappointing than, on turning to one's note-book, to find that at the time, trusting to memory, some of the details had been omitted.

In collecting, when a number of plants of a desired species are discovered, the first thing is to make a judicious selection. To be really valuable the specimens in a collection should be as perfect and characteristic as possible, so that anyone referring to it can learn full particulars about each species. A perfect specimen comprises all that is necessary for complete botanical investigation; leaves (both mature and immature, cauline and radical) flowers and fruit. Specimens can often be secured showing both flowers and fruit on the same plant, or fruit may be found on more advanced plants at the same time. If not in fruit, it must be collected in this condition later in the season. The same rule applies to the obtaining of specimens with different leaves, or leaves in different stages, and it may require several seasons to make a complete specimen. The plant should be so arranged as to be no larger when dried than can be readily mounted on the herbarium paper.

Of small herbs, the whole plant, root and all, should be taken, but in any case enough of the root should be collected to show whether the plant is annual, biennial or perennial. Large plants may be doubled into a V or N shape, and thick stems, roots or bulbs can be thinned down. In the case of very delicate plants, as many ferns, thin sheets of paper should be placed on both sides of the specimen, in which sheets it remains until perfectly dry. By this means the delicate leaves are prevented from doubling up in changing the driers.