

for use whenever the state of society in this country shall be such, as to seek for facilities in acquiring more advanced knowledge than that which is generally sought after at present. When that period shall arrive, the Society, though now acting in a humble capacity, will be found to have performed a most important work in having collected the treasures of nature, and made them accessible to the studious and inquiring. It is in consequence of what appear just feelings in regard to itself and the community, that the Society directs its chief attention to the collection and preservation of objects of Natural History, and of books descriptive and illustrative of them. Of such objects it now possesses a large and well preserved collection. Its mineralogical cabinet is extensive, and the specimens of the finest description, and in that part of it containing the simple minerals and not including those found in Canada, the number in the catalogue amounts to about 1600, exclusive of duplicates. There are in addition to these, the geological collections, foreign and Canadian, and the collection of Canadian simple minerals. In the botanical department there is found a considerable collection of plants from Europe, from the United States and from Canada. In zoology, marked success has attended the efforts of the Society. Of shells, a large number of fine specimens are exhibited in the Museum, and the Society owns also a large number of cases of insects, natives of Canada and of the East and West Indies—of reptiles, the number is considerable—of quadrupeds, there is a deficiency. But the chief attraction is the large number of birds, prepared in the best manner and exhibiting a lively representation of life. In the ornithological collection, indeed, are contained almost all the birds found in this part of the world; also a large number of the gorgeously decorated inhabitants of the torrid zone, both east and west—and a large number of the birds of Britain.

In forming this collection, the Society is indebted to many generous donors, and especially to the fos-