

done at the local museum is to encourage children to intelligently observe natural objects. A few reference books may be kept at hand or the children may be taken to the public library and shown a good picture or analytical drawing of the animal or plant and given a short account of it to read, or they may be taken to the shore or fields and assisted to learn the habits of the animal or something about the growth and nature of the plant. All specimens brought to the museum by them should be marked with the donor's name on the card and immediately given a place in the "Recent Accession" case.

Gifts to the collection should always be promptly acknowledged by letters or by filled out blanks which are more convenient. It is surprising what pleasure these acknowledgments give even to older persons, while children show them to their friends with evident pride. In fact everyone appreciates a prompt response and even the most trivial gift should not be overlooked for it frequently happens, after a few worthless objects have been dutifully acknowledged, that a really valuable addition comes from a person thus encouraged.

An important duty of the local society, through its museum, is to aid in the effort now being made to protect our native birds and preserve our rarer wild flowers. Much may be accomplished in this direction, not only by personal appeal to thoughtless and selfish collectors and by the combined influence of the membership of the society upon them, but the museum collections, if reasonably complete and freely accessible to the public, will in a great measure obviate the necessity and curb the desire for making trivial private collections. Collectors should be encouraged to add new specimens to the museum and the duplication of those already there should be discouraged. Efforts should be made to interest the community in the museum and make everyone feel a personal pride and proprietorship in it. The children, having been interested in the life histories of plants and animals, may be taught to be of great assistance in obtaining desirable objects for the museum and at the same time discouraged from collecting indiscriminately and merely for the purpose of accumulating specimens. The thorough knowledge of a few ani-