

representations of my friends, I allowed myself to be elected, instead of persisting to refuse this highest office in the gift of the Club.

My acceptance, albeit reluctant, was, I am still convinced, a serious mistake and detrimental to the interests of the Club, whose Presidents have hitherto been gentlemen having in a large degree the administrative power necessary to the office, as well as personal influences calculated to advance our general interests.

Various causes have combined to prevent the Council elected by you from devoting so much time as in former years to the management of the Club, however willing they may have been to perform the duties undertaken by them.

Yet, in spite of these drawbacks, the Club has made substantial progress, and a large amount of work has been performed in different directions. The membership has not been much augmented, but any such large increase as in past years is perhaps hardly to be hereafter expected. The persons interested in our labours constitute, unfortunately, a small class of the community, and of these, the number who have not already become members must now be few.

Still, if our work is properly organized and performed, we will continue, it is hoped, to awaken in others an interest in natural history, especially in the younger members of the community. These are now being trained in our various schools, and we should use our influence towards having the important truths of natural history presented prominently to them. Then when they leave school with an interest already awakened in the subjects to which we devote our investigations, we may look forward to their becoming fellow-workers with us, in order to continue their studies in sympathetic company. To this end we should strive to make our excursions and our meetings as inviting to them as possible. Largely with this object in view an innovation has been made in our course of meetings for this season; an evening devoted to microscopic inspection of objects selected to illustrate brief papers on popular subjects being substituted for one of the usual papers.

A very gratifying feature of the summer's work was the increased and sustained attendance at the sub-excursions. These collecting parties, held each Saturday afternoon, were sometimes almost as well attended