

Such museums are direct public educators. Strict laws might be framed, and are in most countries, to prevent cruelty and control the avarice of man from carrying on the wholesale slaughter of birds and animals, where there is fear of the extermination of some species, or the destruction of our entire forests. They can assist, equip and encourage our devoted naturalists, whose sole aim is the amelioration of the world.

From a diversity of tastes and mental faculties, all subjects of Natural History receive due attention; each department has its own particular value, and any advance in one does not react to the detriment of any other.

We find some taking great pleasure in the study of Conchology, and claiming that shells and their animal inhabitants, when compared with the other orders of creation, are inferior to none, showing in external appearance as beautiful forms or contour, as exquisite and varied tints and shades of color, and as harmoniously developed a structure and fitness for its surroundings in the animal inhabitant as are to be found in the more complicated higher classes of animals.

And Botany has always had particular charms, and our plants and flowers that so beautify and adorn the brown earth, lend their fragrant odors to delight our sense of smell, and themselves to adorn not only the body but to cultivate the æsthetic in our nature, as well as the most desirable qualities of mind. They always have ministered to our sufferings, in furnishing medicines and remedies to the healer's art. Many there are who find plants too passive to suit their mental trend, and find, in the study of ornithology that life, that sympathy which satisfies their nature, and in our country they have much new work before them, and may find inspiration from a perusal of the life of Audubon, who pursued his extensive studies under such difficulties and discouragements, yet who raised the greatest monument that Art ever gave to Nature, in his great work, "The Birds of America."

The Field-Naturalists' Club has for its composition not only scientists and naturalists, in the fullest meaning of these terms, but many who devote their leisure alone to such pleasing studies, and who imbibe much love and inspiration for the work, as well as much valuable information from the efforts of those so capable of leading and directing others on the borders of such an extensive study.