

Field-Naturalists' Club. Some of these societies deal with literary and historical subjects only, others confine their observations largely to but one branch of Natural History; while of others, again, owing to the very doubtful policy of leaving the management in the hands of men who, from business engagements or advancing years, do not possess the necessary animus to keep the societies' aims prominently to the front, or, in fact, to keep the society itself alive in its fullest sense, it is to be feared they have fallen rapidly into the background and are not conspicuous for the amount of scientific work done. In none of these, probably, or at least in very few, is there any attempt at obtaining a membership outside of the city in which the society is located; and it is in this particular respect, if in no other, that this society has already secured a prominent place in the fact, that our membership even now embraces persons from Nova Scotia to British Columbia.

At the last meeting of the Royal Society of Canada a scheme was suggested for the acquisition and arrangement of various scientific data, such, for instance, as the arrival and departure of our birds, the first flowering of plants, the putting forth of the leaves on the various kinds of forest trees, and other kindred subjects, work which has been done locally by the members of this society ever since its organization. By many of us, however, I think it will be admitted that, while the Royal Society, from its elevated position as the leading literary and scientific society of Canada, stands in a particularly favorable position in regard to its smaller, and I think we may allow the expression, sister societies in literature, science and art, to lend the support of its great influence to all those which, as working organizations, must ever be the great gatherers and collaborateurs as regards the material from which scientific conclusions may be derived, the work itself must and can only be done by persons laboring actively in the out-door realms of Nature, and in actual contact with the things which surround us, whether in the hard and puzzling problems of geology, in the pleasant and instructive study of botany, or the delightful study of our birds, insects and shells, or in some of the more minute forms of animal and plant life. The materials thus obtained by these working societies, like the Field-Naturalists' Club, and the quantity of these should, in a short time, reach large proportions, can then be discussed, and the conclusions