

handle to carry it by. Wire presses and those of lattice woodwork are highly recommended by some, the advantages claimed being lightness and a free escape of moisture. In wet weather, however, the ordinary form has the great merit of keeping one's paper dry. For an excursion the press should contain a good supply of specimen sheets and driers with one or two pieces of mill-board or thin deal, all of them a little smaller than the press. Any thin, cheap paper will answer for specimen sheets. What is known as printing paper is the kind I ordinarily use. For driers a special paper is manufactured, but it is expensive, and I substitute "filter paper" which is obtainable at most druggists. Blotting paper of any kind will do, and, if economy be an object, old newspapers can be made to serve. Some of the finest and most beautiful specimens I have ever seen were turned out from newspapers alone. The object is to have a medium that will quickly absorb moisture and as quickly part with it again. The mill-boards or deals are to keep apart the damp papers containing the plants and the dry unused ones. I also usually carry in my press a few sheets of cotton-batting to lay over ripe fruits, such as strawberries or raspberries, to prevent their receiving too much pressure and so getting crushed out of shape.

A pocket lens should always accompany the collector, and should not be of too high power, (an inch to an inch and a half focal distance.) A very powerful lens while magnifying greatly, inconveniently narrows the field of vision.

A stout table knife answers the purpose of a trowel, which is used for taking up plants by the root.

The note book is an object of prime importance, and should be of such a shape that it can be easily carried in the pocket. In this book are to be jotted down any observations one cannot trust to memory, e.g. the color of flowers, the height of plants, the character of the soil in which they grow, etc. Unless the collector takes field-notes he will run the risk of letting important observations escape him, and he cannot too soon learn to make them in a concise, systematic and legible way, never mixing up conjectures with actually observed facts. Everyone is