

been put in a case never designed for them. The large Morrill collection occupies the greater part of the east side and of the middle of the room. Most of it is in temporary cases, some pieces in no cases at all. Some of the material collected this last summer on the Morrill geological expedition have not yet been unpacked. One of the finest so-called "Devil's cork-screws" possessed by any institution, which was obtained on that expedition, is nearly ready for mounting, but there is no room for it in the museum. This enumeration does not exhaust the list, and it is in itself general rather than specific.

To any one having the least liking for orderliness, this crowded condition of the museum is painful, moreover it defeats the very purpose of a state museum. For the purpose of such a museum is certainly not merely to afford storage room for specimens for class-room use, nor can it be for the mere gathering of curious things for the amusement of visitors. Everything that goes into a state museum should have a practical value as a means of illustrating something or other in history or the natural sciences. The great French anatomist was able, if only a fragment of a single bone was given him, to tell with a marvelous degree of accuracy what the whole animal was like, but he never could have been able to do so had he not had a great number of bones of other animals to compare with each other and with the fragment. The anatomical student of the present has or should have at his command a much greater amount of material for comparison than the great Frenchman had. The amount of material is enormous, and if there is to be any reasonable rapidity in obtaining results from its study, it must be so classified and arranged as least to impede the progress of the work of the student. Crowding is diametrically opposed to obtaining good results.

Further, just as one may form an idea of an animal from a single rib, so from a single specimen of bird, mammal, or insect which is known to have been obtained within a certain state a more or less accurate

idea of the general character of the climate, water supply, soil, and vegetation of that state may be formed. And the greater the number of specimens and the more numerous the locations represented, the more accurate will be the idea. Hence it is plain that the entire national resources of a state should be presented and properly displayed in its museum, even if for no other reason than to serve as an advertisement to the people of other states, who are constantly visiting the museum. And inasmuch as strangers visiting the public institutions of a state probably obtain their strangest impressions from what they see in its museum it seems incumbent upon those having the power to provide the facilities with which to show up the material already brought together, and constantly coming in, in such a way as will be most advantageous to the state and to the institution having the museum in charge.

Lastly, although the growth of the University as a whole within the past few years has been phenomenal, it certainly is nowhere near maturity. And although representatives of the University have been in every nook of the state and contributed to the growth of its museum, there is very much that is yet to be done. The fields that have been explored for specimens are far from exhausted and the wealthy institutions of the east are constantly after them and will get them too, unless those interested in the state and its University are enabled and encouraged to be the first in the field. In various parts of the state valuable specimens are being found constantly. Those should be brought together here, but if the institutions of other states have plenty of means for displaying such material, they are certain to get it rather than our own institution without means. Besides all this, there are plenty of other people in the state than those who have donated the \$14,000 worth of material, who would be and are willing to place their valuable collections on exhibition here as soon as a suitable place can be offered them.