

In entomology the crowding reaches its maximum; a single room has to serve as laboratory for twenty-two students, private study and work room of the professor and instructor in the pursuance of their investigations, and repository for the collections of insects. The latter are already so large that the space is filled to overflowing, and yet its enlargement is a matter of necessity for the work of the department. Taxidermy, which has heretofore been carried on under the supervision of this department, has been crowded into a corner of a single room in the basement, from which it must be displaced another year to make room for other work. The situation may well be summarized by saying that in each of the three departments numbers of students have been dissuaded from taking work for which they have applied, and another year will probably show the necessity of an absolute limit to the numbers in the courses.

In the museum itself the crowding is all too apparent; in many aisles there is not room for a double row of persons between the cases, and it is often necessary to move one row of cases in order to allow the doors of the opposite row the necessary space in which to open. Not only passage way, but air and light, are cut off by the closely set cases, and yet specimens keep coming in. More than six thousand specimens loaned by a single individual, and many others, are now in place, and others would come were there place to display them. It may be said that our University lost last year a superb collection of minerals valued at \$20,000, which had been promised but were not sent on account of the danger of fire in the present museum building. The collection went straight through Lincoln to Colorado College, which made provision for special fire-proof rooms to contain it.

Other institutions, much smaller in attendance than ours, have already devoted special buildings to this work, and the time has come when in view of the pressing necessity of additional accommodation in these de-

partments, Nebraska should do the same. The space vacated by such a removal would be much better adapted to other purposes than it is to its present use, and would lighten the strain in other directions. The new building need not be an expensive one to fit it for the work of these departments, and would furnish them the room for growth which is due such important subjects. Entomology, with its intimate connection with the welfare of the agricultural interests, should have the means for carrying extensive studies in the life history of the various insect enemies and for training a corps of workers in this field. Geology stands in equally close relation to the study of soils, of subjacent water-bearing strata, and the entire problem of irrigation, while zoology, in its research into the structure and development of the animal form, lays the foundation for medicine, and, in the much neglected territory of parasitic forms, gives valuable aid for the sanitary life of man and the domestic animals.

Much might be written on the right of a museum to demand a place within the territory of a university. The day of mere textbook instruction, in science, at least, is past. The student must see the forms for himself, and this material, collected primarily for class instruction, may properly be displayed for the interest and teaching of the people to whom the University owes its existence. The interest and stimulus to scientific work which it gives to students at large and to the people justifies its inception and support. In arousing public interest, in awakening a desire for knowledge, in securing for the University and its work the hearty support of the people of the state, no factor can be held in higher esteem than a University museum; and to the establishment of one the pioneers in natural science have given both early attention and arduous labors. Will Nebraska fail to appreciate this need and to meet it, as it has already been met by her sister states?

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