

THE RELATION OF THE STATE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE TO THE NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY OF THE CHICAGO ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

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The relation of the State Academy of Science to various existing institutions is a matter for serious consideration, because the question is at once raised, "Can the State Academy perform any work which can not be equally as well done by some society already established?"

In addition to the social advantages offered by the State Academy it would seem that its most important work will be its relation to the various institutions as a central governing body, so far as the scientific work connected directly with the State of Illinois is concerned.

Provision should be made for a complete biological survey of the state, of such an exhaustive character as to leave no part of the area unknown. Much of the past work has been scattered over widely separated areas and has not been properly coordinated. The state should be divided into distinct areas, which should be thoroughly explored and the results coordinated with other similar areas. The method used by the Natural History Survey of the Chicago Academy of Sciences could be adopted with equal benefit in a general survey of the state. This survey covers Cook and Du Page counties and a part of Will county, embracing an area of about 2,500 square miles. Each lake, pond, creek and river has been thoroughly surveyed by a number of collectors and students, and the results have been turned over to the Academy and have resulted in the publi-

cation of six bulletins, and it may be safely said that there is no equal part of the state as well known, so far as the work has been published.

It is believed that the entire state should be surveyed in a similar manner. Should the State Academy seriously consider a biological survey, the relation of the Natural History Survey of the Chicago Academy of Sciences to this survey would be that of general supervision of the work in northeastern Illinois. It would seem that the various institutions scattered over the state should have general charge of the work in their immediate vicinity, which would later be co-ordinated by the State Academy. The State Academy might also, with great benefit to the scientific workers of the state, act as a central bureau of information, providing information relative to the most reliable sources for help on any given topic, and the Chicago Academy of Sciences would naturally offer aid in the departments of Mollusca and ornithology. By this means the State Academy would become the recognized center around which the scientific activities of the various workers would crystallize.

In conclusion the speaker wishes to place before the State Academy for its consideration the subject of a biological survey of a size and nature commensurate with the extent and importance of the great state of Illinois.

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