

SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1897.

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PROFESSOR FLINDERS PETRIE'S SCHEME OF AN ETHNOLOGICAL STORE-HOUSE.

OF late years many scientific men have realized that the function of museums has been imperfectly understood. Some museum officials still regard museums more in the light of cabinets of curiosities than as serious teaching institutions. There are two distinct ways of treating museums from the educational point of view; these may briefly be described as the method of the text-book or the plan of dictionary; a combination of the two is always difficult and often impossible.

To explain my meaning: The bulk of people go to a museum for intellectual amusement; they are interested in natural objects or in the works of man, and they visit the museum in a laudable spirit of curiosity and with a desire to receive instruction. What these people require is a comparatively small number of objects suggestively arranged, with descriptive labels and accompanied by carefully chosen drawings, photographs and maps. In a properly arranged museum of this type it should be impossible for any intelligent visitor to leave it without having gained definite instruction. This is what I venture to call the text-book museum.

The more serious student, he who is seeking to advance knowledge, requires a very different type of museum. It is necessary that he should have access to a large number