

SCIENCE

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A NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY OF MICHIGAN.*

IN Michigan, as in many other States, the desirability, or, perhaps better, the necessity of a survey of the natural resources of the State was early recognized. In 1837 Governor Mason approved an act providing for a geological, zoological, botanical and topographical survey.

It is of interest to note that the early surveys, or explorations, that followed were not limited to a study of the mineral wealth of the Territory. The flora of the regions visited occupied no inconsiderable part of the time and attention of the explorers, and Dr. Houghton's plants in the University herbarium are, many of them, after the lapse of over half a century, still among the finest in the collection. Economical considerations, however, soon led (1840) to the repeal of those portions of the act that pertained to zoology and botany, and but little more was undertaken in this direction until the survey of 1859 and 1860, the report of which, transmitted by Professor Winchell, in 1860, included Geology, Zoology and Botany, the zoological part consisting of an enumeration of birds, reptiles, batrachians and mollusks, while the part devoted to botany includes a list of vascular plants, with remarks on distribution and economical relations.

Since that date the survey has been geo-

*Address by the retiring President of the Michigan Academy of Science, at Ann Arbor, April 1, 1898.