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THE MODERN SYSTEMATIST[1]

WE are still engaged in exploring the earth, that we may understand it. We can not understand any part of the surface of the earth until at least three persons have studied the area carefully: the geologist, the physiographer, the recording biologist. We shall never cease to explore the earth, in old places as well as new. We can never dispense with the recorders.

The older systematic zoology and systematic botany fell into disrepute with the competition of the exacter studies in morphology and physiology, and they have been overshadowed by the interest centering in evolution and its derivative subjects. On the botanical side, the naming of specimens as an exercise in education in schools and the making of a so-called herbarium of snips of plants, have still further discredited whatever seems to be related to systematic work.

Although it is not the purpose of this paper to discuss the educational aspects of the subject, it may nevertheless be said that, so far as one can determine, this school herbarium work did not make botanists, on the one hand, nor lead to an appreciation of nature, on the other, and it would be difficult to trace contributions to science from its suggestion. As an educational method it was faulty because it did not connect plants with either function or environment, nor call for continued application on the part of the pupil. The intensive laboratory course that succeeded it developed exacter methods, more sustained

[1] Before National Academy of Sciences, Philadelphia, November 20, 1917.