

Linnean Society and formerly editor of the *Chemical Gazette*. In 1840, the *Annals* merged with the *Magazine of Natural History*, begun in 1828, and survived. But most naturalist periodicals did not. The *Entomological Magazine*, which lasted from 1833 to 1838, and the *Entomologist* from 1840 to 1842, are cases in point. Despite the risks, attempts did not end, and general enthusiasm for the idea remained alive. This was particularly true among young biologists seeking some sort of corporate identity.

By 1850 many young naturalists like Huxley and Darwin had left medicine to follow science, but the few scientific appointments which existed in English universities or in government service were confined to astronomy, chemistry, geology, natural philosophy and medicine. There were, by and large, no places for biologists. The Linnean Society, the natural haven for biologists in London, was among the poorest of the major learned societies and neither it nor the Zoological Society wielded great influence. With the exception of marine

biology, even the British Association had paid little attention to the claims of naturalists. Apart from a few government posts, naturalists as a group lacked status and position in society. The classic social remedy in Victorian Britain lay in association.

Isolation at Kew weighed on the young Joseph Hooker, who complained⁴ to Huxley that naturalists never met "except by pure accident and seldom then as naturalists and if we want to introduce a mutual friend it is only by cut and thrust into one another's business hours".

... Without some recognized place or resort that will fulfill the conditions of being a rendezvous for ourselves, an inducement to our friends ... and at the same time, a profitable intellectual resort—we shall always be ignorant of one another's whereabouts and writings.

"My own impression is", he continued⁴,

that we shall make no great advance in teaching Natural Science in this country except by some joint

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A WEEKLY ILLUSTRATED JOURNAL OF SCIENCE

*"To the solid ground
Of Nature trusts the Mind that builds for aye."*—WORDSWORTH.

THE object which it is proposed to attain by this periodical may be broadly stated as follows. It is intended:

FIRST, to place before the general public the grand results of Scientific Work and Scientific Discovery, and to urge the claims of Science to a more general recognition in Education and in Daily Life;

And, SECONDLY, to aid Scientific men themselves, by giving early information of all advances made in any branch of Natural knowledge throughout the world, and by affording them an opportunity of discussing the various Scientific questions which arise from time to time.

To accomplish this twofold object, the following plan is followed as closely as possible.

Those portions of the Paper more especially devoted to the discussion of matters interesting to the public at large contain:

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