

valuable institutions thus become dead, isolated, uninteresting and almost useless.

A museum which is intended for the instruction and profitable entertainment of the people, and especially for the assistance of students of all classes, should consist of four main divisions:—(1) A General Department, descriptive of the great principles and facts of Nature, in a broad and suggestive manner rather than in detail. All useless or unnecessary specimens should be carefully excluded, for they would destroy the unity and relations of the whole, and bring in confusion. (2) A Special or New Zealand Department, being a collection of the plants and animals, both recent and fossil, of New Zealand, and also a series of

rocks, etc., illustrating the geology of the colony. (3) An Economic Department, consisting of a collection of plants, animals and minerals useful to man, showing the economic products of the earth. Such a collection would be of immense educational value, especially to the young, whose lessons and home reading would be lighted up by the objects seen in the museum. (4) A Historical Department, containing objects of historical interest, fully and clearly labelled so as to link them with the past history of the colony.

A visit to a museum thus arranged becomes of value, and cannot fail to make a lasting impression on the mind.



Bradshaw,

THE SIGNAL STATION, MERCURY BAY.

photo.