shall not be broken), by means of a thin-bladed knife, and simply rinsed in water thereafter. They should then be closed, the valves not having been broken apart, and either tied and wrapped separately in papers, or wrapped without tying. This is important in preserving intact the ligament which often presents helpful diagnostic characters. When larger quantities are taken, the shells may be placed in boiling water until the valves are open. The animals then easily drop out, and the same method of wrapping and packing may be employed. When living shells may be had, dead ones should never be taken—unless in species usually considered rare. No other preparation is needful or desirable until ready to be placed in the cabinet, when a few minutes scrubbing with a stiff brush will remove all dirt and unveil the shell in all its beauty. Varnishes and artificial glosses of all kinds are to be avoided. The products of nature are never improved by such processes."

In collecting mosses, it is very important to get fruiting specimens, the form and furniture of the capsule being in many instances the only reliable certificate of the species.

The Characeae (Stoneworts) should be preserved by drying under pressure, as is done with flowering plants. The amount of pressure does not matter, as the dried plants, when required for purposes of identification, are readily soaked out into a life-like condition. The Stoneworts occur in Kansas at least as far west as western Barber county in quiet perennial waters.

**Miscellaneous Notes.**

Mr. L. L. Jewell, of Irving, reports the occurrence of the Parroquet and the Ruffed Grouse in the Blue River valley as late as three years ago.

Mr. J. D. McLaren, of Summerville, reports the diatom, Meridiotiscus radialis, from Lawrence. It was found in spring water during recent biological studies at the State University.

Mr. J. B. Quintard, of Silver Lake, reports the finding of living Bulimus dealbatus last summer (1885) on the south side of the Kansas River a few miles west of Topeka. (See Bull. 2, p. 84.)

Mr. J. R. Mead, of Wichita, sends two specimens of a species of Cinosternum (not yet studied, but probably C. Pennsylvanicum) which he finds very common in a small stream near Wichita. This genus seems to be of only local abundance in Kansas.

The larvae of a species of Helicopsyche are common in the limestone riffles of Madison Creek, Davis county. Their helicoid cases of agglutinated sand-grains, so unlike those of most other "caddis worms," imitating, as they do, in form, pose, and habitat, the rissoid snails, are easily mistaken at first sight for some form of the latter. A slight aperture at the apex, through which appear signs of an active inhabitant, betrays the fraud. The cases of the present species have a rough exterior, and appear to differ from those of Helicopsyche arenifera and H. glabra in size (being smaller) and in the degree of elongation of the spire.