

January 12, 1869, an alliance was formed between the Board of Education and the Kent Scientific Institute, by the terms of which the latter had the use of certain rooms in the Central School Building for its museum and for its business and public meetings, and also of the scientific apparatus of the school; and on the other hand the students and teachers of the school had the privilege of using the scientific specimens and the library of the Institute. When this contract was made two new officers were provided for—a Director and Curator—to be nominated by the Institute and confirmed by the Board of Education. Under this arrangement the organization had for many years a vigorous existence, holding meetings twice a month for discussions and the transaction of general business.

### The Museum.

When the reorganization took place under the name of Kent Scientific Institute, those who had formerly contributed by loans of exhibits to the Lyceum of Natural History, presented them to the new society. From the small nucleus the museum grew to be among the finest scientific collections in the West. In 1874 Prof. E. H. Crane's collection of Indian relics was purchased. The museum also had valuable archæological relics that were largely the product of W. L. Coffinberry's researches in the local Indian mounds. The mineral collection was large, and from almost all parts of the world; and the department of fossil material was well filled. Of mollusca the Institute owned some 2,000 specimens, and, through the enterprise and generosity of Mrs. Cordelia T. Briggs, had in its keeping the Currier collection, comprising a much larger exhibit of shells. A. O. Currier was an enthusiastic conchologist of national repute, and the discoverer of several new species. Dr. W. H. DeCamp was a large contributor to the museum. It contained over 600 specimens of North American birds, comprising nearly a complete exhibit of Michigan birds, and 21 representative specimens from South America. In 1887 the Institute contracted with Prof. E. L. Moseley, who was about to go to the Philippine Islands, to supply the museum with 100 species of the birds and mammals of that region. He brought those and more, including a large fruit-eating bat. The collection also contained a great variety of specimens of the lower orders, such as reptilia, lepidoptera, crustacea, beetles, fishes, and other