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EDITORIAL

LOCAL SOCIETIES. The past few years have seen a marked increase in the activities of local archaeological societies. In many of the eastern states, societies have been formed as a result of the stimulus of the Eastern States Archaeological Federation; in others, societies which have been inactive have sprung to life. This is a healthy outgrowth of the great increase in "relic collecting" that occurred when many people found time hanging on their hands. Many persons have desired to know more about the material that was collected and to this end societies were formed, in most cases in an honest attempt to get more information. The goal of most of these societies is the recording and preservation of data and specimens and the ultimate publication of conclusions.

It is a pleasure to note that the logical second step has been taken, and that during the past few years publications have appeared in states ranging from Vermont on the north, to North Carolina on the south. These are in addition to the publications of the older societies, and range from their well printed journals to the mimeographed sheets of their less prosperous fellows.

While each society has had the assistance of various interested persons, it should be pointed out that many of them are working without aid from the State or Federal government. The perseverance of the members in their studies, and their efforts to bring the results of their work to print is even more praiseworthy when one considers that these workers are accomplishing all this in their spare time. Some, at least, have set standards for themselves which would be difficult for anyone to better.

The publication of data secured by excavation is the final step in the process of true archaeology. The growing number of bulletins attests the widespread interest which can be of inestimable value in preserving the prehistory of the continent. As a source of information these bulletins are steadily increasing in importance.