

## The first naturalists



There came a time, maybe 20,000 years ago, (0) **WHEN** man, instead of being merely a hunter, started to domesticate animals. The dog helped in his hunting activities and geese and ducks were kept and bred (1) a source of food, which was easier than (2) to go out and hunt them. Once humans had domesticated animals they (3) their attention to plants. Instead of being nomads, drifting from place to place following the game animals, they

began to create farms and thus enter upon a more settled (4) of life. Villages and towns sprang (5) in places where previously there had been only a hamlet. Now animals and plants began to be kept (6) merely for food but also for interest's (7) or for their beauty.

The first writers on animal life were Aristotle, in 335 BC, and Pliny, in 75 AD, but for many hundreds of years after Pliny the subject of natural history, in (8) with many other areas of knowledge, (9) progressed at all. For the most part (10) zoos as existed were in the hands of the dilettante nobility and were no (11) than second-rate menageries, (12) any scientific purpose.

However, in the seventeenth century, naturalists began to realise that they needed a system for classifying living things (13), as more plants and animals were discovered, (14) was difficult to (15) track of them all.