the publications at Oxford University, and in the pages of the *Annals of Medical History.*

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SPECIAL ARTICLES

NOTES ON CERTAIN CONGLOMERATIC STRUCTURES IN LIMESTONES IN CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA

The following notes may be of value to those interested in the origin of limestone conglomerates in the Nittany valley, Pennsylvania.

Last summer while collecting extensively from the Stonehenge and Axemann limestones, fossiliferous members of the Beekmantown series, in the Bellefonte quadrangle the writer found repeated occurrences of fossils in the conglomeratic, or pseudo-conglomeratic beds. In some cases the fossils were sparingly disseminated among structures prevailingly conglomeratic and apparently of inorganic origin. In other instances fossil layers themselves assumed a conglomeratic appearance in cross-section, especially if slightly weathered. It was often impossible to determine in the field whether a structure, apparently conglomeratic, owed its superficial appearance to a strictly inorganic origin or rather to an assemblage of fossils in a more or less clastic fashion. Gradually the impression grew upon the observer that fossils worked over mechanically in some way prior to burial formed the basis of some of the so-called limestone conglomerates. Anent this possible method of formation the following observation is offered for what it is worth.

Several years ago the writer had occasion to collect fossils from the Warrior limestone (Buffalo Run limestone of Moore and Walcott) of Upper Cambrian age and found one outcrop which could be interpreted as the result of the mechanical breaking up of an organism. A small reef or cluster of *Cryptozoon,* seen in cross-section, appeared broken or flaked off in such a manner that the cemented rubble much resembled "edgewise" conglomerate. The area on the rock surface was small, but the occurrence is deemed significant.

Caution should be used by the field worker in interpreting probable conglomeratic structures in these limestones, as a cross-sectional view alone may be misleading unless the possibility of fossils is constantly kept in mind.

The paper by Mr. Richard M. Field[1] on these obscure structures deserves commendation. His many field observations and summary of previous literature render the work a distant contribution to knowledge whether or not one agrees with his theory of origin. The reader is referred to this paper for a full treatment of the subject.

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MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE ON POLICY OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

The Committee on Policy met on Monday, April 28, 1919, at 5 P.M., at the Cosmos Club, with Mr. Nichols in the chair, and Messrs. Woodward, Merriam, Humphreys, MacDougal, Cattell, Noyes, Ward and Howard also present.

On motion, Professor Dimon Kellogg, of Columbia, Mo., was elected to membership, made a fellow and, on nomination from the sectional committee of Section A, was elected vice-president and chairman of that section.

On motion, Dr. David Jayne Hill, was elected to membership, made a fellow and, on nomination from the sectional committee of Section I, was elected vice-president and chairman of that section.

On motion, Dr. C. Kenneth Leith, of Madison, having been nominated by the sectional committee of Section E, was elected as vice-president and chairman of that section.

On motion, A. S. Langsdorf, of Washington University, was elected as secretary of the council in place of Dr. J. F. Abbott, resigned.

[1] "A Preliminary Paper on the Origin and Classification of Intraformational Conglomerates and Breccias," Richard M. Field, *Ottawa Naturalist,* vol. 30, nos. 2–6, May–Sept., 1916, pp. 29–36, 47–52, 58–66.