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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. Field¹ 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. HARRY N. EATON

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

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.

A communication from Dr. Felix Neumann, of the Surgeon General's Library, suggesting a change in the last constitution in the name of Section K from Historical and Philological Sciences to History of Science was read, and, on motion, the secretary was instructed to inform Dr. Neumann that this idea could be embodied in an amendment to the constitution to be submitted at the St. Louis meeting, if desirable, or that members interested in the history of science could form a sub-section of Section K provided the name as previously recommended for the section should be adopted.

The following fellows were elected as honorary fellows emeritus under the terms of the Jane M. Smith Fund: Charles Frederick Chandler, Edward Williams Morley, William North Rice and Albert Henry Tuttle.

On motion, the treasurer was authorized to invest two thousand dollars in Victory Liberty Notes.

Reports of progress with regard to the proposed popular journal were made by Mr. Humphreys and Mr. Noyes. After a lengthy discussion on the proposal for a new scientific journal under the partial auspices of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, it was agreed it would be equitable to enter into arrangements provided that SCIENCE be offered to members for the three dollar fee; that the new popular journal or *The Scientific Monthly* be offered for four dollars; that SCIENCE and the new popular journal be offered for six dollars, and that all three publications be offered for nine dollars, and that SCIENCE be underwritten for its circulation through the American Association for the Advancement of Science on the amount of its subscriptions at the time of the establishment of the new journal; or that SCIENCE be paid fifty cents for each individual subscription between the actual subscriptions and the circulation at the time mentioned, the same to be deducted from the amount paid by the association to the new journal.

Dr. Ward reported from the committee on state and local academies, giving the results of preliminary negotiations with three state academies.

On motion, it was resolved that state and city academies of science may become associated or affiliated with the association by paying to the association only two dollars and fifty cents for each member, retaining fifty cents of the association fee for the use of the academy, and the entrance fee of the association of five dollars shall be remitted in such cases.

Mr. Cattell made a progress report with regard to the National Education Association.

On motion, Messrs. MacDougal, Coulter and B. M. Duggar were appointed a special committee to confer with the secretaries of societies of botanical interests which meet with the association to consider the coordination of the efforts of such societies.

On motion, the opinion of the committee on policy was expressed that, when the new journal on popular science is established, the entrance fee of the association should be remitted for one year.

At 10.30 P.M., the committee adjourned.

L. O. HOWARD,
Permanent Secretary

THE UTAH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

THE twelfth annual convention of the Utah Academy of Sciences was held at Salt Lake City, April 4 and 5, 1919, in the physics lecture room of the University of Utah.

In all, three sessions were held—the first beginning at 8 o'clock Friday evening, the second at 9:30 o'clock Saturday morning, and the closing session at 2 o'clock Saturday afternoon.

At the business meeting Saturday afternoon, five members were elected to fellowship as follows: Dr. M. C. Merrill, Dr. Willard Gardner, Harold R. Hagan, and Tracy H. Abell, of the Utah Agricultural College, Dr. Joseph F. Merrill, of the University of Utah.

The following persons were elected to membership in the Academy: Professor A. L. Beeley and Professor LeRoy Cowles, of the University of Utah, D. W. Pittman, of the Utah Agricultural College, Mark Anderson, of the U. S. Forestry Service, and Andrew Lee Christensen, Salt Lake City.

Dr. W. C. Ebaugh, formerly head of the department of chemistry at the University of Utah, having permanently removed from the state, was transferred to associate membership.