

1896 a Chinese fisherman, who had accidentally brought to the surface on trawl lines some eggs of *Bdellostoma stouti* near Monterey, California, collected a number of the eggs for G. C. Price, Bashford Dean and others. The fisherman would reveal to no one how or where he secured the eggs, and his secret died with him.

Through the courtesy of the Boston Society of Natural History, the Committee on the Permanent Science Fund of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Bashford Dean Memorial Committee of the American Museum of Natural History and the National Research Council, I have been able to search during several summers for the naturally deposited eggs of *Myxine* and *Bdellostoma*. In the summer of 1930 I succeeded in collecting between five and six hundred naturally deposited eggs of *Bdellostoma stouti* near Monterey, California; at least 130 of the eggs had embryos.

No one has succeeded in finding naturally deposited eggs of *Myxine*, and the many attempts to obtain fertilized eggs by keeping the eels in captivity have failed. While fishing during the months of July, August and September, 1931, near the mouth of Frenchman Bay, five miles from Bar Harbor, Maine, I succeeded in collecting about fifty naturally deposited eggs of *Myxine glutinosa*. The eggs were brought up from the bottom of the ocean in from thirty to thirty-five fathoms of water.

My experience in searching for the eggs of both *Bdellostoma* and *Myxine* leads me to the conclusion that the eels do not migrate, and that they deposit

their eggs at all seasons of the year in certain favorable spots very near their feeding grounds.

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SEDIMENTATION AND SEDIMENTOLOGY

"SEDIMENTATION," as generally understood, is that branch of geology which deals with the processes of sedimentation and the origin of the sedimentary rocks.

Webster's New International Dictionary for year 1929 says: "Sedimentation is an act or process of depositing sediments."

The current use of the term in geology is ambiguous and in some cases incorrect. Geologists in general have not taken very kindly to the term "sedimentation-ists," but resort to cumbersome phrases such as "petrologists interested in sedimentary rocks" or "petrologists working on sedimentary deposits." It is questionable if the use of the phrases "sedimentary petrology," and "sedimentary petrologist" side by side with "sedimentary depositists," i. e., deposits formed by sedimentation, is correct.

Sedimentology is here suggested as a term for the subject taught, retaining *sedimentation* for the act or process of deposition. The new term and its derivatives *sedimentologist*, *sedimentologic* and *sedimentological*, will tend toward clearness. *Sedimentology* and *sedimentation* have their analogies in *glaciology* and *glaciation*, respectively.

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REPORTS

SCIENCE BOOKLETS FROM THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

IN 1929, a suggestion to the council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science brought about the appointment of a special committee on the preparation of a series of science booklets for distribution to the American public.

This committee was to arrange for selecting the most appropriate books on each of twenty-seven subjects deemed most important in the field of pure science, and to secure the cooperation and collaboration of numerous scientists, librarians and others familiar with these books. The committee was also to find funds with which to pay for the printing of the lists when ready.

In this series the applications of science to industry and invention are not developed to any great extent; it is hoped that lists on the industrial sciences, especially on the applications of the physical sciences, may be worked up into similar lists by some other national body.

In the fall of 1929, tentative title lists, containing a considerable surplus of titles beyond the twenty-five which had been set as the maximum number for any one list, were mailed to a large number of prominent scientists and to some of the larger public libraries and museums, asking for votes on the most suitable books and cancellation of the least desirable titles, as well as for editorial suggestions that would make the lists most useful for the purpose.

This purpose was very carefully defined; it appears on each of the printed lists:

These lists have a three-fold object: (1) To select and describe a few authentic and especially interesting books acceptable to the "general reader"; (2) to supplement these with several introductory treatises in understandable style; (3) to suggest a group of text-books for more advanced study by ambitious amateurs, or persons studying by themselves. Books written in America, recent and not out of print, nor too expensive, have been favored, but there are numerous exceptions. The books can generally be borrowed from libraries, or bought from bookstores. Libraries which lack these titles may be able to borrow them