catches from one to six other forms were present (three species of diatoms and three species of dinoflagellates in one). The largest number of *Ceratium tripos* found in a single drop was two, but the number of *Prorocentrum* in that drop was 146. The general evidence of drop studies of the fourteen days suggests that the ratio of numerical representation of the two leading species was about fifty to one in favor of the smaller form.

These experiences show distinctly the unreliability of results of treating differing organisms alike, and the futility of applying methods of handling to those of smaller size merely because they have been successful with those of larger size and are convenient. They also show the possibility that *Prorocentrum* is more frequently prominent in production of "red water" than reports have indicated.

Worm larvae of undetermined affinities were the only animals actually seen using *Prorocentrum* for food. Many of them were gorged with intact specimens.

In the tall tubes used for daily collecting by the settling method, it was noted that a large percentage of killed material was held by the surface films and by the sides of the tubes. Microscopic examination of some of the supported particles showed them to consist mainly of clumps of three to six *Prorocentrums,* a most convincing illustration of the way in which agglutination or adhesiveness of small organisms may reduce accuracy of collecting by any method.

Because of their general interest these points are presented for publication now, since it is improbable that a full report can be prepared soon.

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INTERBED—A CONVENIENT STRATIGRAPHIC EXPRESSION

SEDIMENTARY formations are commonly made up of one dominant rock type in which occur interbedded layers of distinctive lithology; a shale formation may contain interbedded limestone layers; a sandstone may include interbedded shales. In many cases each interbedded layer consists of a single bed, an inch or more in thickness. Where such thin layers of different lithology are regularly and repeatedly interbedded a banded appearance is attained. In stratigraphic description these features have been referred to as "interbedded layers" or "intercalated beds," or some such expression that, when frequently repeated, as is necessary in some cases, becomes exceedingly awkward. In their place the term "interbed" can be used to advantage.

An interbed is strictly a single bed lying between other beds from which it differs somewhat in lithology. The term can be used for more than one bed in the case of thinly laminated layers of small thickness, such as shale interbeds. It does not refer to a collection of beds that on account of their thickness or continuity can properly be called a tongue, a member or a formation.

Fossiliferous limestone interbeds occur in a late Ordovician series near Matapedia, Quebec, and it was to facilitate reference to these important layers that I first had occasion to use the word. In the form of a noun, "interbed" can be modified by descriptive adjectives which appear cumbersome when used with the adjective "interbedded." The expression "varve-like interbeds" has been used by C. L. Baker in describing portions of the Haymond formation in western Texas.[1] To my knowledge this is the only occasion that the expression "interbed" has appeared in print.

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ON THE EFFECT OF MOCCASIN VENOM UPON A RATTLESNAKE

LITTLE or no definite information on inter-generic or inter-specific venom susceptibility among American crotalid snakes seems to be available. Beyond a few brief and general comments, such as "poisonous snakes are immune to their own venoms and to the venoms of each other" and "snakes are immune to the venom of their own species but may be susceptible to that of a closely related species," the literature is silent on this subject. As a matter of general interest, and because of its suggestiveness in this little-worked field, it seems desirable to record an instance in which the venom of a cottonmouth moccasin, *Agkistrodon piscivorus* (Lacepede), is known to have been fatal to a rattlesnake, *Crotalus atrox* Baird and Girard.

In connection with a demonstration of venomous snakes for a boy scout troop about 9:15 P. M., November 18, 1932, a four-foot western diamond rattlesnake was severely bitten by a thirty-inch cottonmouth, as the former was being lifted from a box in which both had been confined. The bite was lateral in position and about five inches anterior to the tail. Both fangs of the moccasin are thought to have penetrated the body of the rattlesnake, although the punctures could not be found. Little attention was given to the matter at the time, but the following morning, when the snakes were returned to their enclosures in an animal room of the Zoological Laboratories, it was noticed that the body of the rattlesnake was swollen near the region of the bite and that the skin visible between the scales was of a dark

[1] C. L. Baker, "Erratics and Arkoses in the Middle Pennsylvania Haymond Formation of the Marathon Area, Trans-Pecos, Texas," *Jour. Geol.*, xl: 580, 1932.