

ON THE OCCURRENCE OF "PHOSPHATIC NODULES" IN THE CHAZY FORMATION ABOUT OTTAWA, CANADA.

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In the April number of the OTTAWA NATURALIST Mr. Sowter has an interesting article on the Chazy formation at Aylmer, Que., in which he records some valuable discoveries made respecting its stratigraphy and palaeontology. One statement made in this paper, however (p. 21), requires a few words of explanation, and that is, regarding the occurrence of those "phosphatic nodules" at Hog's Back, in Nepean, Ont., which I had observed in the summer of 1884, and described March 4th, 1885, at one of the Club's winter Soirées.

Mr. Sowter remarks that "during the past season these 'nodules' have been examined and recognized as very diminutive members of the Brachiopoda and Lamellibranchiate, as yet unclassified," adding a footnote regarding certain organic-like forms which he compares with *Pasceolus globosus* of the Trenton.

I am quite astonished indeed at Mr. Sowter's conclusions resulting from an examination made of the nodules which I discovered in 1884, at Hog's Back, in the Chazy formation. To begin, I am not aware that Mr. Sowter has ever even seen a single one of the "phosphatic nodules" which I described, and had that gentleman desired or asked to see them, he would never have arrived at his conclusion. Moreover, in order to ascertain definitely the minute structure and characters of these "nodules," which were in the cabinets of the Geological Museum, Mr. Weston very kindly prepared careful microscopic slides of them, and the sections soon revealed that they were truly "phosphatic nodules," and very akin to those described and figured in the "Report of Progress of the Geological Survey of Canada" for 1876 (page 433). Mr. Weston recognised them as such immediately, having already prepared a great number of such from different formations.

As to the occurrence of "diminutive Brachiopoda and Lamellibranchiata," these have been observed at several localities before.

In further corroboration of the fact that "phosphatic nodules" are met with in the Chazy formation, the following extracts from the