

Eozoön, and are equally massive and abundant, and may be regarded as analogous to it in magnitude, habitat, mode of growth, and function in nature.

These later discoveries are gradually widening the horizon of palæontologists in the direction of the dawn of life, and the studies of those who trace backward the history of the Invertebrates of the Palæozoic seas are demanding more and more the discovery of earlier forms than those yet known to complete the chain of life.¹ The field is a difficult one to cultivate, and demands both labour and patience, but it holds forth the prospect of great discoveries, and it has already become the duty and interest of palæontologists to extend their inquiries as far back as the Laurentian in the search for Eozoic life.

In this respect the study and discussion of Eozoön have not been without use, in directing attention to the possibility of finding organic remains in the older crystalline rocks, to the danger of confounding them in their peculiar condition with merely mineral structures, to the state of preservation of organic remains in the older formations, and to the origin and significance of the large deposits of limestone, dolomite, hydrous silicates, iron ore, graphite, and apatite, laid up in certain horizons of the Eozoic rocks. Questions of this kind have been greatly advanced toward their satisfactory solution since the discovery of Eozoön in 1858, and in some degree at least in consequence of the interest excited by that discovery. It is hoped that the present notes may tend in the same direction, and that, whether or not they succeed in removing any existing scepticism in respect to Eozoön, they may help to stimulate and guide the search for those beginnings of life, which there are now the best reasons for believing are to be found far below the base of the Cambrian.

¹ See Dr. Woodward's Address as President of the Geological Society, 1895.