

fine plate in Schuchert's "Revision of Paleozoic Stelleroidea," U. S. National Museum, 1915. Schuchert's additional material indicates that the type specimen had lost practically its entire apical skeleton. It, however, reveals structures not yet seen in any fossil sea-star ever collected before. This rare find of Mr. J. E. Narraway at City View should prove of interest to the readers of this magazine, and it is to be hoped that other fragments of this species will be found, as there are many points in its structure not yet satisfactorily explained.

A study of the specimen figured by Raymond, in OTTAWA NATURALIST, December, 1912, is also one of those marvellous dissections and preparations by nature which has so much to say concerning the minute anatomy or histology of an extinct subclass of Asterozoa. This specimen I have treated in an article which will appear in the Director's report of the N. Y. State Museum for 1915.

Now, we must bear in mind that Mother Nature has worked for hundreds of years on some of her surface material to prepare it in a manner that man cannot yet imitate. We might say that as a carefully dissected and preserved frog, so prepared as to display its internal organs, would have a greater money value than an ordinary dead frog, so would a dissection and preparation at nature's hands of one of her buried forms enhance its value. At the same time, however, we should bear in mind that the dissection of the frog is a much easier matter than the dissection of any fossil. The field of weathered surface is certainly limited, and collectors in any region that has been frequently visited will tell one that good finds are not so abundant as they used to be. When surface material has so much to tell, it is certainly a matter of regret to have a large percentage of it destroyed through ignorance and carelessness. It becomes a duty then to conserve this material, and to make it widely known that well weathered specimens of all uncommon species, even though very fragmentary (such as the separate ossicles of *Blas-toidocrinus*, figured in N. Y. State Museum Bulletin 107, plates 4-7) is desired for study of external ornament, form of ossicles, or other elements of structure, manner of articulation, growth stages, etc.

Buried material is, of course, limitless so far as common species are concerned, but for all rare forms such material is desired for study through development and sectioning. In many cases fragments might be of inestimable value.

(To be continued.)