VI. Pre-Cambrian in Wales.

In the past summer I was enabled to spend a few days, with the assistance of my friend, Mr. H. Tweeddale Atkin, of Egerton Park, Rock Ferry, in examining the supposed Pre-Cambrian rocks of Holyhead Island and Anglesey. Fossils are very rare in these beds. As Sir A. Geikie has shewn, the quartzite of Holyhead is in some places perforated with cylindrical worm-burrows; and in the micaceous shales there are long, cylindrical cords which may be algae of the genus *Palæochorda*, and also bifurcating fossils resembling *Chondrites*, but I saw no animal fossils. I have so far been able to discover no organic structure in the layers of limestone associated with apparently bedded serpentine in the southern part of Holyhead Island. In central Anglesey there are lenticular beds of limestone and dolomite associated with Pre-Cambrian rocks, which Dr. Calloway regards as probably equivalent to the Pebidian of Hicks. In these there are obscure traces of organic fragments; and in one bed near Bodwrog Church, I found a rounded, laminated body, which may be an imperfectly preserved specimen of Cryptozoon or some allied organism. The specimens collected have not, however, been yet thoroughly examined. These, and other pre-Cambrian deposits in Great Britain, correspond in their testimony with the Eozoic rocks of North America, as to the small number and rarity of fossil remains in the formations below the base of the Palæozoic, and the consequent probability that in these formations we are approaching to the beginning of life on our planet. Mr. Edward Greenly, F.G.S., of Achnasheaw, Bangor, is now engaged in a careful revision of the geological map of Anglesey, and will give special attention to Pre-Cambrian fossils. He has already discovered, in rocks supposed to be of that age, organisms recognized by Dr. Hinde as spicules of sponges.[1]

1 Jonrnal Geological Society, Nov., 1896.