

It has been pretended that the veins of chrysotile, when parallel to the laminae, cannot be distinguished from the minute tubuli terminating on the surfaces of the laminae. I feel confident, however, that no microscopist who has seen both, under proper conditions of preservation and study, could confound them. The fibres of chrysotile are closely appressed parallel prisms, with the optical properties of serpentine. The best preserved specimens of the "proper wall" contain no serpentine, but are composed of calcite with extremely minute parallel cylinders of dolomite about five to ten microns in diameter, and separated by spaces greater than their own diameter (see my comparative figure, "Dawn of Life," p. 106; also Figs. 5. 6). In the rare cases where the cylinders are filled with serpentine they are, of course, still more distinct and beautiful. At the same time I do not doubt that observers who have not seen the true tubulation may have been misled by chrysotile veins when these fringe the laminae. Möbius, for instance, figures the true and false structure as if they were the same.

Protest should here be made against that mode of treating ancient fossils which regards the most obscure or defaced specimens as typical, and those better preserved as mere accidents of mineral structure. In Tertiary Nummulites injected with glauconite, it is rare to find the tubuli perfectly filled, except in tufts here and there, yet no one doubts that these patches represent a continuous structure.

I have remarked on previous occasions that the calcite constituting the laminae of Eozoön often has a minutely granular appearance, different from that of the surrounding limestone. This is, I presume, the "dusty" appearance referred to by Dr. Bonney. Under a high power it resolves itself into extremely minute dots or flocculi, somewhat uniformly diffused. Whether these dots are particles of carbon, iron, apatite, or siliceous matter, or