that Steganoblastus is not a blastoid, not even one of the Protoblastoidea, as was at first supposed" (1914, p. 202). We must modify this statement. The presence of brachioles should be inferred from the presence of small bordering plates equal in number to the floor-plates, and in zigzag arrangement with them; from the manifest need for additional structures to assist in food capture and respiration; from the appearances noted suggesting hydrospires; and from the presence of cover-plates nearly as large and solidly fixed as in Blastoidocrinus, which does possess brachioles. The peculiar blastoid-like markings on the channels of the food-grove noted in Edrioaster may be added to this list, for they will probably be found in both Blastoidocrinus and Steganoblastus. Bather goes on to say: "Secondly, the structure of the subvective groove, with its floor-plates and cover-plates, and its pores between the floor-plates, is paralleled by Edrioasteroidea alone among Pelmatozoa, and in that class most closely by *Edrioaster*, though there are minor differences" (1914, p. 202). This statement cannot stand, for in the points enumerated *Steganoblastus* is paralleled by *Blastoidocrinus*, and both plates and pores no doubt functioned in a similar manner.

We have here a very definite problem to solve, and as we are more likely to find or notice that which first exists in the "mind's eye," a clear comprehension of the problem may lead to an early solution. This idea of a problem-phase in collecting is one we should carefully bear in mind.

Before closing the present paper a few remarks on "field notes" may not be out of place. It is sometimes desirable to know the position assumed by a form, either while living or during burial. With surface material the determination is easily made. In the case of the holotype of *Palaeocrinus striatus* Billings, we desired to know whether or not the flattening of the theca was normal. The varying degrees of weathering, and the cutting away of the under side to free it from its matrix showed that this specimen was buried with the flattened posterior side down. The bent in condition of that surface may then have been simply due to pressure after burial. (N.Y. State Museum Bulletin 149, p. 216-217). In the Valcour Island specimen of *Blastoidocrinus carchariaedens* Billings, a knowledge of the side down at death would assist in proving the respiratory function of the hydrospires and the condition of the growing inner edges of their folds, for fine muds were swept into these folds after the stem could no longer support the theca, and before death occurred. (N.Y. State Museum Bulletin 107, p. 114, and fig. 2 on p. 105). In Canadacystis emmonsi (Hudson), the rounded, protruding portion of the theca seems to have been an adaptation to secure stable equilibrium on the sea floor