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NOTE ON CRYPTOZOON AND OTHER ANCIENT FOSSILS.

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For many years my attention has been directed, in connection with the discussions regarding Eozoon, to the discoveries made from time to time of organic remains older than the Lower Cambrian, and to the study of fossils occurring in the Cambrian, and which might be supposed likely to be survivals from the Pre-cambrian periods. It is now well known that in the Lower Cambrian seas there already existed representatives of all the classes of Marine Invertebrates, and these represented probably by several hundreds of species of many genera, since the published lists of American forms alone contain more than 160 species.¹ In the beds immediately below the Cambrian, however, though several forms of life have been recognised by Billings, Matthew, Walcott and others, they are comparatively rare in numbers and sparsely distributed through great thicknesses of unproductive beds; and this in connection with the frequently disturbed and altered condition of the beds themselves, renders any attempt to

¹ Walcott: Memoir on Fauna of Lower Cambrian, 1890. Publications of U.S. Geological Survey.