

THE
CANADIAN RECORD
OF SCIENCE.

VOL. IV.

JULY, 1891.

NO. 7.

ON A NEW HORIZON IN THE ST. JOHN GROUP.

BY G. F. MATTHEW, M.A., F.R.S.C.

Read at Meeting of the Natural History Society of New Brunswick, 5th October, 1891.

Among fossils which are considered to be of special importance in determining the age of Cambrian strata, none are thought to be of greater value than that curious net-like organism called *Dictyonema flabelliforme*.

Most of the continental geologists regard the beds which contain this fossil as the highest which should come under the name of Cambrian, as distinguished from Ordovician or Lower Silurian, because at these beds there is an important palæontological break which we now know to be only local for the Atlantic region, but which seems in Europe to be of unusual importance.¹

In Great Britain, however, another set of beds, the Tremadoc slates are included in the Cambrian rocks. This group contains many Cambrian types, occurs in the original Cambrian area, and for these reasons is attached to the Cambrian system. The next system begins with the Arenig group in which the true graptolites come in in strength and variety.

¹ Prof. G. Lindström asserts that in Sweden not a single species passes this limit.