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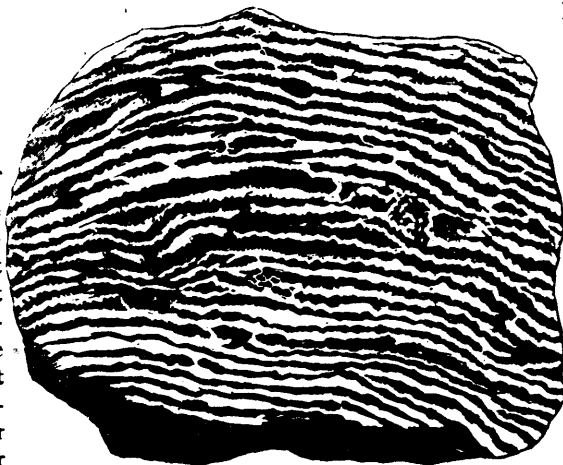
A GLANCE AT THE GEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE ISLAND OF MONTREAL.

BY R. W. MACLACHLAN.

It has been written that, "Nature is a great book, of which those who stay at home read only a page"—all things, animate and inanimate, being inscribed leaves in this vast volume, from which "those who run may read." Four-footed beasts and creeping things show forth the skill of the Designer in adapting each to its peculiar habitat. Trees and herbs tell us of infinite variety of form and beauty in Nature. On the rocks are sculptured records of the long, long past, of turmoil, revolution and change in the earth's crust. To read these hieroglyphics, many, not content with the home page, have traversed thousands of miles of the earth's surface. Then let us, too, go out in imagination, that we may read what Nature has recorded of her history so near our homes.

The earliest trace on the island, of this rock history, may be seen in the immense granite boulders strewn over the length and breadth of its surface. These, although not natives (having been brought hither by later agencies, of which more hereafter), lead us back to the earliest of geological periods—a time when the great primeval ocean rolled its dark, heated waters round the globe, when its hitherto unchecked wave-roll was first disturbed by the intrusion of dry land, whence those boulders came. This land, now the Laurentian

hills or range, is that around which this North American Continent has clustered. The only living thing of the time, whose remains are extant, was an animal called by his successors, or rather posterity, according to Darwin, *Eozoön Canadensis*—



(Fig 1.) Oldest fossil,—*Eozoön Canadensis*.