

strong affinity for oxygen come into its neighbourhood. The same writer expresses his belief that plants contain a substance very similar to the hæmoglobin of the animal kingdom.

MEAT that has been allowed to remain in brine for any considerable period loses much of its creatine or nutriment, only the non-nutritious and indigestible portions being left. Of course the most, if not all, of the nourishment has become mingled with the brine. Accordingly, the process of dialysis has been called into service for the purpose of separating and rescuing the best part of the meat from the salt liquor. The salt being a crystalloid will pass through the membrane and leave the albuminous colloid behind. The wonder is that this method had not been thought of and published long ago. It may undoubtedly be turned to good account in the navy and in marine exploring expeditions.

THOSE who had the good fortune to be students of Dr. Nicholson, while he so successfully discharged the duties of the Chair of Natural History in University College, Toronto, will no doubt be gratified by the perusal of the following extract taken from the London *Geological Magazine*, and referring to a new book "On the Structure and Affinities of the Tabulate Corals of the Palæozoic Period, by H. Alleyne Nicholson, M.D., D.Sc., etc., Professor of Natural History in the University of St. Andrews:"

"It might have been thought that the various memoirs on Fossil Corals which have been written by Edwards and Haime, Lindström and other palæontologists, including Dr. Nicholson himself, would have pretty well exhausted all that could be said on the subject, and rendered a fresh work almost

unnecessary; but a glance at the contents of this elaborate book at once shews that it is no mere recapitulation of what has already appeared in previous publications, but that it contains a great amount of additional knowledge respecting this division of fossil corals. This is not owing so much to the description of new forms, but rather to the results obtained by the examination of microscopic sections of forms already known. Whilst it is true that this method of investigation involves, in the preparation of thin transparent sections, a vast amount of preliminary work which only those who have undertaken a similar task are capable of estimating, there can be no doubt that it is only by this means that reliable evidence can be obtained and satisfactory conclusions drawn as to the true characters and affinities of these fossil organisms. Dr. Nicholson may be said to be the first to apply, to any extent, the microscopic method of investigation to elucidate the structure of fossil corals; and the results which he has obtained serve to shew in a striking manner the importance and necessity of microscopic examination in determining the intimate structure of corals. The great amount of material which the author has been collecting for many years past from those localities in Britain, the continents of Europe and America, which have yielded most of the known fossil tabulate corals, has enabled him to carry out the task of a critical description of these forms with the great advantage of being able, at will, to compare and collate the specimens in his own cabinet. Though this book treats of the Palæozoic *Tabulate* Corals, the author fully recognizes the necessity of abandoning this division as a natural group, and distributing the various families and genera included therein by Edwards and Haime amongst the other divisions of the Actinozoa."