

particles, was readily separated by washing in an agate mortar; or by simply shaking small portions of the sand in a piece of writing paper bent into a trough, and held in a somewhat inclined position. Mr. Dewe, of Toronto, the proprietor of the land on which the auriferous sand was alleged chiefly to occur, not feeling exactly satisfied with the statements made to him from Collingwood, paid a visit to the spot, and collected personally many samples of sand from various points upon and adjacent to the district in question. In these he failed to detect gold. We have also, by the kindness of Mr. Dewe, examined the same samples. They certainly do not contain the slightest trace of that metal. We have likewise examined many other samples (in part collected by ourselves) of sand of an exactly similar character, from the islands on Lake Couchiching, the shores of the River Severn, Matchadash Bay, the north shore of Lake Huron, and the Manitoulin Islands—all of which are entirely free from any trace of gold. It is difficult, therefore, to avoid the conclusion, that the gold in these so-called "Collingwood Sands" has been placed there for the purpose of deception. Some of the minute particles, when examined under a powerful microscope, had the appearance of having been subjected to the action of a file.* If gold really occurred in the sands of this western region, the occurrence would be of great geological interest, as the iron-sands are here evidently derived from Laurentian rocks; whereas the auriferous deposits of the Eastern Townships are the detritus of metamorphosed Lower Silurian strata, belonging to the general age of the Hudson River group.

Note:—Under the head of "Circular Polarization in Cinnabar." in the last number of the Journal, the term "hemihedral" should be properly "plagihedral." In order, also, to avoid misconception, the reader is requested to add to the characters of the *Orthisidae*, pages 159 and 160,—“No internal shelly process, properly so called: *id est*, neither loop nor spiral process.” The genus *Productus*, p. 160, is stated by d'Orbigny to range from the Silurian to the Permian strata, but in all probability it does not descend below the Devonian. It is most abundant as a Carboniferous form.

THE WOLLASTON MEDALS—1858.

At the moment of going to press, Professor Wilson has placed in our hands a copy of the London Literary Gazette, announcing the awards of the Wollaston medals for the present year, by the Geological Society of London. One of these most honorable recognitions has been conferred on the distinguished palæontologist Hermann von Meyer, of Frankfort on the Maine; and the other on our no less distinguished palæontologist of the Western World, Professor James Hall, of Albany. The justice of these awards will be universally acknowledged.

E. J. C.

PHYSIOLOGY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

MAZATLAN SHELLS: MUSEUM OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO.

The Museum of the University of Toronto has recently received an accession in the department of Conchology, so interesting and important, that a short account of it may not be unacceptable to the members of the Canadian Institute.

* Since writing the above, we have found that the gold contains copper. Of its origin consequently, there can be no doubt.—E. C. J.