

The phenomenon seems to be analogous to that formation of nodules around organic nuclei within masses of soft material, which occurs in many geological formations.

These little bodies are evidently clay concretions formed around vegetable fibres, and hardened by a small percentage of calcium carbonate. since when treated with hydrochloric acid they effervesce feebly and become disintegrated. They probably originate in the molecular aggregation of the calcareous matter in the clay around any foreign body included in it. They are about half an inch in diameter, and the largest may have been two inches in length, with rounded ends. When broken, they show a small central canal containing a little sand and strips of epidermal tissue, the remains of a root or stem. One shows three branches apparently proceeding in a verticillate manner from a central stem. In the centre, the light, reddish-brown colour of the clay has assumed a greenish hue, owing to deoxidation of the Peroxide of Iron by decay of the vegetable nucleus.

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT ON CERTAIN ANCIENT CONCRETIONS, IN CONNECTION WITH THE ABOVE.

On a small scale these modern concretions are similar to those so often found to enclose vegetable remains in the carboniferous system; and in the Pleistocene at Green's Creek, on the Ottawa, vegetable stems are sometimes found enclosed in similar, but larger and harder concretions.

Concretions of this kind appear to throw light on those remarkable trunk-like cylinders which have been found in the Potsdam sandstone. These attracted the attention of Sir Wm. Logan many years ago; but as they showed no structure, external markings, or carbonaceous matter, they were not regarded by him as true fossils. More recently they have been studied by Dr. Selwyn in exposures on the bank of the Rideau canal, near Kingston. Dr. Selwyn has kindly sent photographs of these specimens, to be exhibited to the Society. Mr. A. Young, a student in applied science in McGill University, has also presented fine specimens to the