

to the geological relations of serpentine; and though I must protest against the idea prevailing in some quarters, that there is any necessary connection between this mineral and Eozoon, yet as serpentine exists in connection with many specimens of this fossil, it is time that geologists were warned against the extravagant ideas of pseudomorphism which have been promulgated in connection with it. I have, therefore, been engaged in the present summer in re-examining large series of specimens of serpentines associated with organic remains, and have visited some of the Canadian localities of such serpentines, and have studied their geological relations. I hope to show, when these researches are complete, that microscopical and palæontological evidence completely vindicates the theory of aqueous deposition of serpentine as maintained by Dr. T. Sterry Hunt, and shows that this mineral, like glauconite and similar silicates, may fill the pores and cavities of fossils, without in any way destroying their forms or structures. I have examples of Silurian corals and other fossils mineralized with true serpentine, precisely like Eozoon in the Laurentian. Further it can be shown that the Lower Silurian serpentines of Canada, alike in their interstratification with fossiliferous limestones, and in their passage into limestone, dolomite and even red slates, conform in a striking manner to the known laws of deposition of hydrous silicates in the modern oceans. Whatever opinions may be held as to the metamorphic origin of certain serpentines, or as to the mode of formation of serpentine veins, the facts I already possess are amply sufficient to show that such theories have no application to the ordinary serpentines found in beds associated with fossiliferous rocks.

(8.) I may add that I hold Gümbel's elaborate exposition of the foraminiferal nature of *Receptaculites*, in the Transactions of the Royal Bavarian Academy, and the announcement by Prof. Karl Moebius of a recent sessile Foraminifer from the Mauritius, not very remote from Eozoon in its general mode of growth, to be important contributions towards the history of this oldest fossil; whose investigation, as will be seen from the above notes, is by no means fully worked out.