

Eocene in this area was found to be marked by a strong unconformity and overlap. This had never been previously recognized in Egypt. In 1898 the existence of thick bone-beds, probably of considerable commercial value, was discovered in the Oasis of Dakhla. Again, in 1897, in the Abu Roasch district, near the Pyramids of Giza, the junction of the Cretaceous and Eocene was again found to be unconformable, instead of being marked by lines of fault, as formerly supposed. In the Western desert, and in one case in the Eastern desert also, igneous intrusions have been discovered at isolated spots in the sedimentary areas.

This brief statement of a few of my own results is rendered still more necessary in view of the fact that there are at the present time several observers about to visit the same regions. The details connected with these questions will probably be dealt with in the Survey Memoirs.

HUGH J. L. BEADNELL.

CAIRO, 7th December, 1899.

ORGANIC REMAINS FROM CAMBRIAN ROCKS OF BRAY.

SIR,—The question of the age of the ancient beds of Bray and Howth has recently attracted some attention in connection with the additions to our knowledge of Cambrian and Pre-Cambrian rocks in other places. The true nature of the real or supposed fossils in these Irish beds is therefore an urgent one. *Oldhamia* has been obliged to submit to a verdict of Not proven, at the best. It is naturally asked whether *Histioderma* is to meet with a similar fate. Unfortunately, inquiries from various workers elicited the fact that the type-specimen was missing from the Irish Survey Collection.

Recently, however, in rearranging the mineral collection of the Royal College of Science for Ireland, we were fortunate enough to find four specimens of *Histioderma*, with their original tablet; these have now been restored to the Survey Collection, and will be exhibited in the Museum of Science and Art, Dublin. Two of the specimens are the internal and external casts of the same object, the former being the actual specimen figured as *Histioderma Hibernicum* by Dr. J. R. Kinahan in his paper "On the Organic Relations of the Cambrian Rocks of Bray and Howth; with Notices of the most remarkable Fossils": Journ. Geol. Soc. Dublin, vol. viii (1858), pp. 68-72, pl. vi, fig. 2.

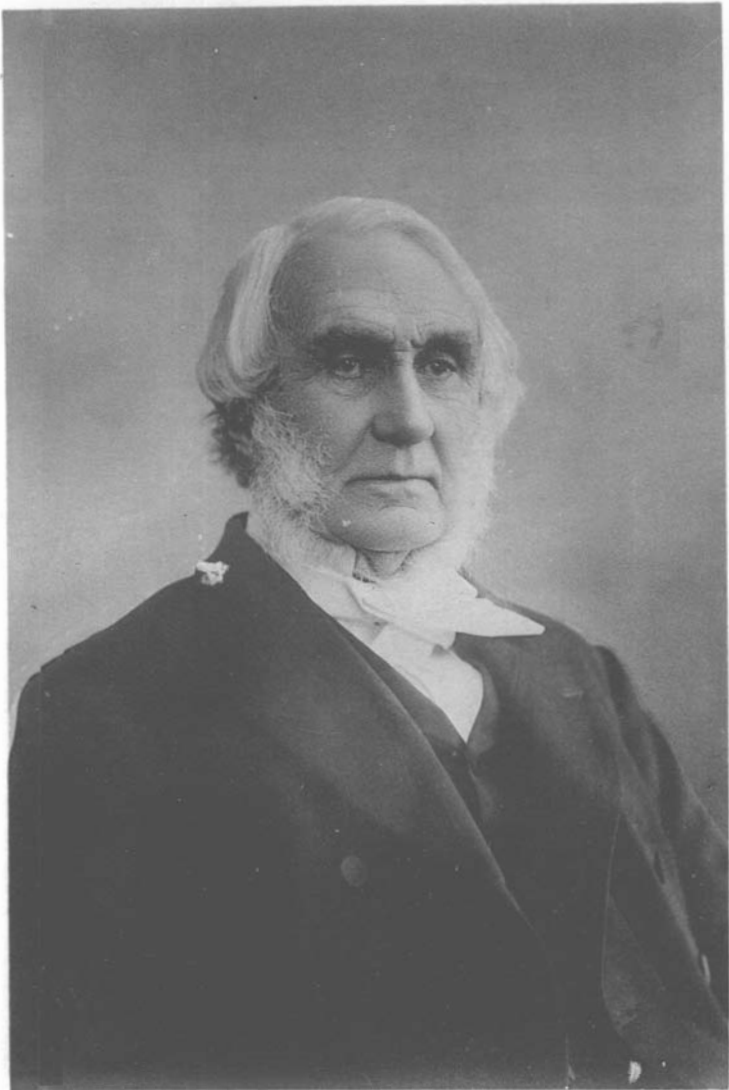
A moment's examination of the actual specimens is enough to remove all doubt of the organic nature of *Histioderma*. It consists of a cup-shaped expansion, with two sets of approximately parallel ridges which intersect each other obliquely, and a conical root-like continuation below. Without denying the possibility of the correctness of Kinahan's explanation that the ridges represent the tentacles of an annelid, we cannot help thinking that the general appearance rather suggests that they are lines of thickening in a continuous muscular envelope.

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*Very truly yours
Osmond Fisher*