

of these bodies, and induced me to suspect, with Prof. Orton, that they might have belonged to some group of aquatic plants lower than the Lycopods.

Since the publication of my paper on Rhizocarps in the Palæozoic period above referred to, I have received two papers from Mr. Edward Wethered, F. G. S., in one of which he describes spores of plants found in the lower limestone shales of the Forest of Dean, and in the other discusses more generally the structure and origin of Carboniferous coal-beds.* In both papers he refers to the occurrence in these coals and shales of organisms essentially similar to the Erian spores.

In the "Bulletin of the Chicago Academy of Science," January, 1884, Dr. Johnson and Mr. Thomas, in their paper on the "Microscopic Organisms of the Boulder Clay of Chicago and Vicinity," notice *Sporangites Huronensis* as among these organisms, and have discovered them also in large numbers in the precipitate from Chicago city water-supply. They refer them to the decomposition of the Erian shales, of which boulders filled with these organisms are of frequent occurrence in the Chicago clays. The Sporangites and their accompaniments in the boulder clay are noticed in a paper by Dr. G. M. Dawson, in the "Bulletin of the Chicago Academy," June, 1885.

Prof. Clarke has also described, in the "American Journal of Science" for April, 1885, the forms already alluded to, and which he finds to consist of macrospores enclosed in sporocarps. He compares these with my *Sporangites Huronensis* and *Protosalvinia bilobata*, but I think it is likely that one of them at least is a distinct species.

I may add that in the "Geological Magazine" for 1875, Mr. Newton, F. G. S., of the Geological Survey of

* "Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club," 1884; "Journal of the Royal Microscopical Society," 1885.