

THE WORK.

It is hard to estimate the value of the labors of the Geologists of Indiana in their efforts to acquire and publish the facts concerning the natural resources of the State, and the scientific information connected with the same. All the industries of the State are due to its natural resources; and the existence of valuable lands, minerals or other properties must be known before men can be induced to invest their money or labor in their development.

It was mainly through the efforts of Professors Cox, Collett and Dr. Ryland T. Brown that the value of the immense coal deposits of the State became known to the world, and the same earnest workers first declared and published the value of the oölitic limestone deposits of the State, as well as that of many other valuable varieties of building stone. Professor Thompson, during his administration of the office, continued in the same line and devoted his efforts mainly to the work of developing the natural resources.

To acquire a good, practical, working knowledge of the rock formations of the State, the student must familiarize himself with the organic remains found in the rocks. These consist of the preserved forms of animal or vegetable organisms. So much importance is attached to these fossil remains that in almost every State or National Geological Survey, whenever a species hitherto unknown to science is found, a full description of the same, with figures fully illustrating it is immediately published. These fossils are the characters by which the rocks are read, and whenever they are found in a stratum of rock, the practical Geologist will at once recognize the true position of the rock.

To aid the students of this State in their geological studies, Prof. Collett began in 1880 the publication of full descriptions and figures illustrating the various fossils found in Indiana. This work he continued, as the means at his command would admit, until he retired from the office in 1885. Some of his figures and descriptions were re-publications and others were wholly new. To illustrate the manner in which his work was appreciated, and the value attached to it by scientific men, it

is only necessary to state that nearly every one of the new figures prepared by Prof. Collett has recently been reproduced by the Geological Survey of Pennsylvania.

The present State Geologist desires to continue the publication of such discoveries as are wholly new, and connected with the geology or natural history of the State, and he has perfected arrangements by which this work may be done at a moderate cost to the State. This Report, containing ten new plates, and their accompanying matter, will be immediately followed by the Seventeenth Report, which will contain 20 plates and much additional scientific information.

In addition to this valuable palæontological matter by Prof. S. A. Miller, the Seventeenth Report will contain an exhaustive report upon the building stones of the State by Maurice Thompson; the Geology of Steuben and Whitley Counties by Prof. Dryer; the Geology of Cass and Wabash Counties by Dr. Elrod and A. C. Benedict; Reptiles of the State by Prof. O. P. Hay, of Butler University; Butterflies of the State by Prof. Blatchley, of Terre Haute; reports from the Natural Gas, Oil and Mine Inspectors, and much other valuable matter.