

described in 1929 by Mawson from South Australia : *Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.*, 85, 613–623 ; and in 1946 by Clarke and Teichert from Western Australia : *Amer. Journ. Sci.*, 244, 271–276), and that brecciation of the carbonate mud was not only caused by the growth of the algae themselves, but also by expansion (especially in the shallows) of ice forming periodically in the algae-infested lakes.

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MICROPALAEONTOLOGICAL TECHNIQUE

SIR,—Just over a year ago, a method of breaking down shales for micropalaeontological study was mentioned in abstract in the *Micropalaeontologist* by Mr. N. M. Layne, jun. Quoting from the abstract, the details of the method are as follows :—

“First heat the sample on a gas plate or in an oven sufficiently to drive off the interstitial moisture. After it has cooled pour gasoline over it and allow to stand for about half an hour. Next decant the gasoline, and cover the sample with water.”

Since reading of this method, I have carried out several experiments with it, using a slight variation in that the sample is dried again after the gasoline is decanted, and before the water is added. With this method, samples of extremely hard shale which normally take five to six hours to prepare by the normal repeated hydration and dehydration, are ready for microscopic examination within one hour. Pure sandstones are not affected by this method, but impure sandstones are found to break down, the speed of the reaction increasing with the proportion of argillaceous matter present.

I mention this process here because the *Micropalaeontologist* has a somewhat restricted circulation amongst general palaeontologists in England, and also because the applicability of the method goes well beyond the field of micropalaeontology into that of general palaeontology. In one of the experiments I was able to extract from an impure sandstone entire shells of macrofossils so cleanly that the internal and external details could be seen perfectly.

It would seem therefore that this method of breaking down samples could do much to speed up the work of palaeontologists, as well as lessen considerably the risk of damage to specimens whilst cleaning them mechanically.

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REFERENCE.—LAYNE, N. M., A Procedure for Shale Disintegration. *The Micropalaeontologist*, iv, No. 1, 1950.

LINEATION IN HIGHLAND SCHISTS

SIR,—In three short Notes recently published in the *Geological Magazine*, I have attempted to demonstrate a simple, and I feel useful, macroscopic way of looking at folded rocks. Applying this point of view in many parts of the Highlands, I have been impressed by the prevalence of *b*-lineations similar to those described in the Notes. It should perhaps be pointed out that my approach is more similar to that employed by Dr. F. Coles Phillips in his important pioneer work on the fabric of the Moine (*Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.*, xciii, 581–620) than might be evident at first sight. When it is realized that my text-figures represent profiles at right angles to the fold-axes, it will be appreciated that in my examples, as in those of Dr. Coles Phillips, there is a marked tendency for the micas at any rate to lie on a more