

affect the status of the many coral atolls, barrier reefs, and other types of reefs which are deeply buried in the oil fields of Canada and elsewhere.² The first sentence of the abstract, which speaks of "alleged fossil reefs" (p. 231), and the section "Other Alleged Fossil Reefs," imply that there are no actual ancient reefs. In other words, the author leaves one with the impression that none of the ancient structures which are called reefs are wave resistant, have in situ fossils, or possess other evidences of having grown in their present positions. Actually, he has dealt only with ^{very} a few reefs of west Texas and southeast New Mexico, which are classified as belonging to the Late Paleozoic era; and it is evident that his own research had to do only with a part of the Capitan and Goat Seep reefs. It is of course legitimate to restrict ones study to one kind of fossil reef, but such a study does not qualify one to speak concerning other types of reefs. Furthermore, when Nevins decided not to carefully study the main, underground part of the Capitan reef, he seriously damaged his opportunity to arrive at valid conclusions concerning even that one reef. On p. 234 he states the area of his study as being the 47-mile-long outcropping part of the Capitan Limestone, as examined in seven canyons in the Guadalupe Mountains. The entire paper is written as though this were the main, if not the only part of the Capitan reef, and the maps ~~of it~~ which are given refer only to this northwest segment of it. In reality the Capitan reef is slightly over 350 miles long, with most of it lying at a depth ^{of} some thousands of feet.³ ~~PP~~ The author's constant insistence in the paper, that the Capitan reef was not a wave-resistant, barrier-type structure seems to result from a failure to recognize that even non-wave--resistant organic banks require long periods of time for their growth. To demonstrate that a reef or other structure is not a wave-resistant ~~barrier~~ is not to show that it was formed by a rapid process.