

seems very questionable. At least it is significant that none of the authors to whom he refers is suggesting that the reef was formed rapidly, and he has been able to cite only ~~four~~<sup>four</sup> authors (out of the very large number who have written on the subject) who deny that the Capitan lacks large organically-bound frameworks.

5. The statement (on p. 233),<sup>that</sup> "Probably the greatest difficulty in identifying so-called ancient 'reefs' is that the modern examples generally have little resemblance to those of the past," ~~is~~<sup>may be</sup> true for the organic bank type of reefs, but can not be applied to all ancient reefs. We should note that the quotation from Krumbein and Sloss which the author gives concerning this, applies the principle only to "the majority of ancient reef masses available for investigation." Our response to this must be that, since there are some of the ancient underground reefs which closely resemble some modern reefs, we are obligated to recognize them. For example J. R. Langton (1968), and D. L. Barss (1970) describe numerous, well known reefs in the Rainbow oil fields of Alberta, Canada which have many striking similarities to ~~these~~ modern reefs. Examples of these are crescent-atoll reefs, similar to those of the Great Barrier Reef of Australia (about 2 miles in diameter), complete with lagoonal area containing typical lagoonal sediments; and large atolls (one typical one being 4 X 2.5 miles), also with a lagoon<sup>al</sup> area in the center. These atolls also resemble modern reefs in that they contain abundant, massive, coral growths in situ, including colonial corals. The corals are not merely occasional, as in the Capitan reef, but are a major component of the atolls. (The research by which this was determined included data from 45 wells drilled into Rainbow Member reef oil pools. Langton and his colleagues examined 15,000 linear feet of slabbed well core material from these wells, with binocular dissecting microscopes.)<sup>6</sup> Thus the statements of Nevins concerning the absence of modern characteristics must not be applied to ancient reefs in general. (His quotation, on p. 233, from W. H. Easton concerning the absence of "modern scleractinian corals" in ancient reefs is irrelevant and misleading here, because scleractinian corals are only one group of colonial, wave-resistant corals. The colonial, septate corals which are abundant in the atolls of the Rainbow area give every evidence of being wave-resistant, and are one of the most abundant and well known types of identifiable Paleozoic fossils.