

Bulletin 65. *Type Specimens of Paleozoic Fossils in the New York State Museum.* This catalogue, which has been an arduous compilation and long in press, is a record of the possessions of the museum in this important class of objects. Type specimens of natural objects, that is the actual material on which published descriptive accounts and discussions have been based, constitute the unique treasures of a museum. Such objects once lost or destroyed, replacement is impossible. Howsoever imperfect or fragmentary the type or original specimen may be, of however superior quality some other example of the same creature, the second can not serve to scientific students the function of the first. The type specimen is the basis of comparison and reference for all time.

The publication of the *Palaeontology of New York* and the extensive list of papers accessory and supplementary thereto have given birth to a very large number of type specimens from the paleozoic strata of America. Some part of these, specially that utilized in the early volumes of the paleontologic reports, was the personal property of the author of those reports and passed from his hands to the possession of the American Museum of Natural History in the city of New York. Till the preparation of this catalogue was begun, no serious effort to bring together the type specimens in the State Museum of these and other descriptions into one place or record was ever carried to completion. Some years ago the writer undertook the work of publishing lists, believed to be complete at the time, of certain of the organic groups, namely the Crustacea, Vermes and Cephalopoda;¹ but a revision of these lists has shown considerable omissions, due somewhat to normal growth as investigations have progressed but more to the fact that these types have been scattered all through the collections of the museum both in the State Hall and in Geological Hall. It has been an arduous task to search out and bring together these specimens, which during the past half century have become so widely and carelessly diffused, but their number is noteworthy, and the importance of this record justifies the labor put on it.

¹ N. Y. State Geol. 11th An. Rep't. 1892. p.31-53; 12th An. Rep't. 1893. p.57-104.