

**REPORT ON THE CONTENTS OF TWO BOTTLES OF WATER FROM
THE GULF OF MEXICO, FORWARDED BY THE SMITHSONIAN
INSTITUTION.***

By DR. W. G. FARLOW.

When received in Cambridge, May 14, 1881, the water of both bottles gave out an excessively disagreeable odor of putrefying organic matter, and ammonia was given off in considerable quantities, as was shown by holding a rod moistened with hydrochloric acid over the mouths of the bottles. In one bottle there was a greenish-colored, slimy deposit an inch deep, and the water above was clear. In the second bottle the water was turbid throughout and of rather a brownish color.

The microscopic examinations showed that the contents of the two bottles were alike. The greater portion of the matter contained in the water consisted of a mass of amorphous slime, in which were numerous crystals, apparently of a fatty nature. There were, besides, a large quantity of eggs of some animal, which were easily recognized, although partially decomposed, and the remains of small crustacea. In addition to the animal substances mentioned were remains of plant tissues, leaves and young stems, pine pollen, and diatoms of four or five different species.

From what has been said, it is evident that the slime in the water must have been at some time not far from the land, or else that the bottles used, or the water after it had been collected, must have been exposed to the air for some time.

It is my opinion that the trouble is not caused by the presence of any vegetable substance, but that the presence of the latter is accidental. The slimy mass probably originated from a mass of eggs which, for some reason or other, were killed near the surface of the water, and the smaller crustaceans in the neighborhood have been involved in the general mass of slime.

REMAINS OF THE WALRUS (?) IN MAINE.

By C. H. BOYD.

ADDISON POINT, WASHINGTON COUNTY, MAINE,
October 8, 1881.

DEAR SIR: I have the honor to make the following statement of finding the partly fossilized bones of a walrus (?), in expectation that it may possibly prove of interest in connection with investigations of the Smithsonian, as tending to show the range of the walrus thus far south, or that this climate was more Arctic in time past.

* This water was collected where the fish mortality, referred to in preceding pages, was the greatest.