

3. THE CHALK FORMATION.—The pure white limestone, called *chalk*, is known to every one; but in the nomenclature of geology, the name is applied to a group of deposits very dissimilar in their lithological composition, but agreeing in the nature of the organic remains which they contain, and evidently referable to the same geological epoch. The series essentially consists of green and ferruginous sands, clays, marls, and grey and white limestones, abounding in marine remains. With this explanation it will be convenient to employ the term in its extended sense. The chalk formation comprises the following subdivisions:—

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| 1. Upper chalk, with flints | } | <i>Craie blanche</i> of the French geologists. |
| 2. Lower chalk, without flints | | |
| 3. Chalk marl | | <i>Craie tufeau.</i> |
| 4. Firestone, malm-rock, upper green sand, or glauconite | } | <i>Glaucanie crayeuse.</i> |
| 5. Galt, or Folkstone marl | | |
| 6. Shanklin, or lower green sand | | <i>Glaucanie sableuse.</i> |

The *chalk* is generally white, but in some countries is of a deep red, and in others of a yellow colour; nodules and veins of flint occur in the upper, but seldom in the lower chalk. The *marl* is an argillaceous limestone, which generally prevails beneath the white chalk; it sometimes contains a large intermixture of green sand, and then is called *firestone*, or *glauconite*. The *galt* is a stiff, blue or black clay, abounding in shells, which frequently possess a pearly lustre. The *Shanklin*, or *lower green sand*, is a triple alternation of sands and sand-