

into three groups. The uppermost, which is almost 100 feet in thickness, consists of red, green, white, grey, and yellow sand, with concretions of chert and chalcedony, which, in the Blackdown hills of Devonshire, contain immense numbers of silicified shells. The beds of the second group have a large admixture of clay and oxide of iron, and are so retentive, that pools of water are numerous in the tracts they occupy, and springs burst forth at their junction with the superincumbent sand. The lowermost division abounds in green and grey sands, and contains numerous concretionary masses and beds of the grey arenaceous limestone, well known as the "Kentish rag." At Shanklin Chine, in the Isle of Wight, these beds form the most characteristic feature of that picturesque spot, from whence the name of the strata is derived. In the north-east of Ireland, the Shanklin sand constitutes an important feature. On the continent it is found accompanying the upper members of the chalk formation, and is well displayed in Saxony, and along the Alps and the Carpathian mountains. In North America, arenaceous strata appear to be the equivalent of the chalk of Europe, for they abound in the usual cretaceous fossils, as ammonites, nautili, hamites, scaphites, belemnites, echinites, &c.

12. ORGANIC REMAINS OF THE CHALK.—The fossils of the chalk are very numerous, and comprise all the usual forms of marine animals, with the exception of cetacea. Particular genera and species