

district in which the beds of the wealden are so largely developed.

The strata of the south-east of England constitute three principal groups. The *first* consists of the *tertiary* sands, clays, and gravel, described in the previous lecture, which occupy depressions of the chalk. The *second* is the *chalk*, (including under this term the white chalk, gault, and green sands,) which forms the most striking feature in the physical geography of the country. The upper division of the cretaceous formation constitutes the South Downs, which from the bold promontory of Beachy-head, traverse the county of Sussex from east to west, and pass by Hampshire into Surrey. From Godalming the chalk hills extend by Godstone into Kent, where the range is called the *North Downs*, and terminate in the cliffs of Dover. The lowermost member of the chalk, the Shanklin sand, appears as a chain of hills of very irregular elevation, which skirts the escarpments of the chalk downs, the gault constituting a valley between them. The *third* group is spread over the area between the North and South Downs; the most elevated masses forming a range called the *Forest-ridge*, which traverses the district in a direction nearly east and west, and is composed of alternations of sandstone, sands, shales, and clays, with a deep valley on each flank, called the *weald*; hence the geological designation of the whole series. From the central ridge of the wealden, which varies in height from