

Professor Phillips, who has so ably investigated the geology of Yorkshire,\* has given a lucid description of the carboniferous strata of the oolite;† and Mr. Murchison, of those of Brora, in Sutherland. The tabular arrangement of the oolitic system (page 437) shows the succession of the deposits in Yorkshire and Brora.

In the district north of the Humber, the lower oolite assumes a new character: instead of finding beneath the cornbrash, the forest marble and great oolite-beds of sandstone, shales abounding in coaly matter, are interpolated above the sand which covers the lias. Proceeding northwards, these strata rapidly increase in thickness, and the carbonaceous layers gradually become concentrated into a stratum of coal, which, though never exceeding sixteen inches in thickness, is, from local circumstances, of considerable value. These strata assume the appearance of a true coal-field, with subordinate beds of coarse, shelly limestone. The fossil plants which accompany the coal-seams and sandstones, occur also in the calcareous slates and limestones, both on the Yorkshire coast, and at Brandsby. No marine exuviae have yet been found in the coal grits or shales, with the exception of some bivalves. Along the coast under Gristhorp cliffs, a seam of shale, but a few inches in thickness, may be traced for miles; and, from its abounding in leaves of

\* The Geology of Yorkshire.

† Ency. Metrop. art. Geology.