

ferns, equiseta, cycadeæ, and of a great many other plants, it is chiselled out by collectors, to obtain specimens. The beauty and variety of these fossil plants are shown in this interesting and extensive series, presented to me by Dr. Peter Murray, and Mr. Williamson, of Scarborough. "Here," observes Professor Phillips, "we have truly a coal-field of the oolitic era, produced by the interposition of vast quantities of sedimentary deposits, brought down by floods from the land, between the more exclusively marine strata of the ordinary oolitic type."

Mr. Murchison, one of our most distinguished and indefatigable geologists, has ascertained that this oolitic carboniferous system extends yet farther northward; and at Brora, and other parts of Sutherland, and on the western coast of Scotland, contains beds of coal of considerable extent. At Brora the sandstones and shales acquire considerable thickness, and frequently alternate with layers of plants and beds of coal, from a few inches to nearly four feet in thickness. On the north-east coast of the Isle of Skye, shales and sandstones, with impressions and remains of plants, form an extensive series of strata above the lias shale.

14. GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE LIAS.—I have stated, in general terms, that the lias in England extends along the western escarpment of the oolite, forming a district which presents an exceedingly variable surface, occasioned by the