ichthyosauri and plesiosauri of Mr. Hawkins, in the British Museum, are proofs of the correctness of this inference.

The general character of the oolite, as derived from its organic remains, is therefore that of a system of oceanic deposits, accumulated in a basin of great extent, through a period of immense duration. The sea was inhabited by the general classes of marine animals, but of genera and species that became extinct before the tertiary epoch; and with these were associated multitudes of peculiar reptiles. The land which then existed, as attested by the remains drifted into the basin of the sea, was peopled by reptiles and marsupial animals, and clothed with tree-ferns, palms, cycadeæ, and coniferæ.

17. SALIFEROUS, OR NEW RED SANDSTONE SYSTEM.—Beneath the lias (see tabular arrangement, page 194, Plate VII.) are beds of marl, of various colours, but in which a dull red, derived from peroxide of iron, generally predominates; and limestones, containing a considerable portion of magnesia. These strata are associated with saliferous marls, which abound in chloride of sodium, or common salt, and sometimes include vast beds of that mineral, with scarcely any intermixture of other substances. The term saliferous is therefore applied to the group, although deposits of salt are not confined to these strata, but occur (page 276) even in the tertiary. This formation naturally