

These beds are entirely of marine origin, and the limestone at Dudley and other places swarms with trilobites, crinoidea, corals, spiriferæ, productæ, and other fossils, with which our previous investigations have made us familiar. The subdivisions introduced are locally important; but a general analogy prevails in the organic remains throughout the rocks, and there does not appear to be any essential variation in the forms or conditions of organic life, as deducible from the fossils, from the commencement to the termination of the series.

Mr. Murchison has shown that each principal division of the Silurian system may be distinguished by peculiar fossils. Thus the upper Ludlow rocks contain scales, spines, fins, jaws, and teeth of fishes, and these are the most ancient beds in which any

of the coal fields and overlying formations; by *Roderick Impey Murchison, Esq. F.R.S. &c.* In two parts, royal 4to. with a separate map, and numerous illustrations. London, 1839; p. 768. This splendid work forms an era in British Geology: it is a noble monument of patient, laborious, and successful scientific research, pursued through a long series of years, regardless of toil, time, or expense. The results of the labours of its highly-gifted author are alike novel and important. Rocks, which, under the names of transition and greywacké (terms that served as a veil for our ignorance), were previously considered without the pale of scientific arrangement, are now shown to form a regular system, and to possess zoological characters as well defined as those which mark the newer secondary formations. The additions made to the geological fauna by Mr. Murchison comprise nearly 400 species. This is truly a national work: the description of the British coal fields, is as important in an economical, as in a scientific point of view.