

of the new genus *Stenopora* of Lonsdale are remarkably abundant.

In regard to the proportion of species common to the Silurian beds of Europe and America, whether of the lower or upper division, I may confidently affirm, that it is not greater than a naturalist would have anticipated, from the analogy of the laws governing the distribution of living invertebrate animals. A contrary opinion has prevailed very widely, it being rashly assumed, that at remote epochs the majority of species were far more cosmopolite than in modern times.

The recent researches of Messrs. Murchison and De Verneuil point to the conclusion that the fossil shells, corals, and trilobites of the Silurian system of Scandinavia, and Russia, resemble greatly those of the British Isles; yet nearly half the species which they collected there were different from ours, and the departure from a common type was far more conspicuous in the Lower Silurian fossils of Britain and Russia, than in those of the upper division. When the same fossils of Northern Europe were compared by M. de Verneuil with those brought by me from America, the distinctness was obviously much greater, although the representation of generic forms, whether in the organic remains of the upper or lower Silurian strata, was most clear and satisfactory.

On both sides of the Atlantic, these ancient marine formations are characterized by a prodigious development of one peculiar family of mollusca, called brachiopoda (palliobranchiata)—shells, which, as they inhabit deep water, are little known, and have re-