

ceived no common name in our language. They are represented by the living genera *Terebratula*, *Orthis*, *Lingula*, *Orbicula*, and *Crania*. The existence of *Orthis*, a form till lately supposed to be extinct, has been made known to us by the researches of Philippi in the Mediterranean. Some other genera may hereafter be detected by deep dredging, for we learn from Professor E. Forbes, that at the depth of 100 fathoms in the Mediterranean the profusion of individuals of certain species of *Terebratula* is extremely great. Nevertheless it may be safely assumed, that the present seas, as well as the tertiary strata of the epochs immediately preceding our own, exhibit a smaller variety in the forms of this tribe of mollusca than the Silurian rocks in which they seem to have attained their maximum of development. The oldest known fossiliferous period was in fact the age of brachiopods; as the carboniferous period was that of ferns, and the oolitic that of reptiles.

The great number of crustaceans of the extinct family called *Trilobites*, is also another feature of the formations older than the carboniferous, and especially of the Silurian rocks. No country is richer in fossils of this class than the United States; and Mr. Conrad has given a table of distinct genera of trilobites, which characterize his Upper, Middle, and Lower Silurian formations of New York, each of which larger divisions he considers to be quite as distinct as the Devonian, and as capable of being classed as an independent group by reference to organic remains.*

* Journ. of Acad. Nat. Sci., Philadelphia, 1842, vol. viii., part 2, p. 233.