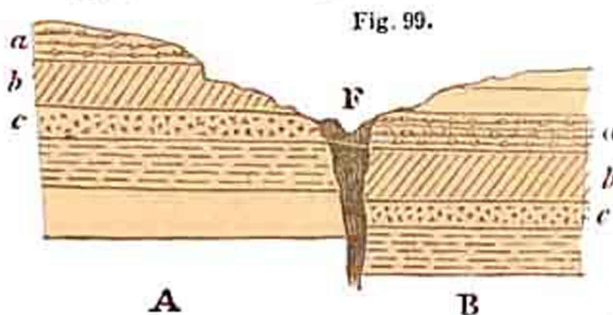


- geologists, are said to have been produced by the action of a diluvian wave or deluge sweeping over the surface of the earth. *Etym.*, *diluvium*, deluge.
- DIP.** When a stratum does not lie horizontally, but is inclined, it is said to *dip* towards some point of the compass, and the angle it makes with the horizon is called the angle of dip or inclination.
- DIPTERA.** An order of insects, comprising those which have only two wings. *Etym.*, *dis*, *dis*, double, and *πτερον*, *pteron*, wing.
- DOLERITE.** One of the varieties of the Trap-rocks, composed of augite and felspar.
- DOLOMITE.** A crystalline limestone, containing magnesia as a constituent part. Named after the French geologist Dolomieu.
- DUNES.** Low hills of blown sand that skirt the shores of Holland, England, Spain, and other countries.
- EARTH'S CRUST.** Such superficial parts of our planet as are accessible to human observation.
- ECPYROSIS.** A Greek term for a destruction by fire.
- ELYTRA.** The wing-sheaths, or upper crustaceous membranes, which form the superior wings in the tribe of beetles. They cover the body, and protect the true membranous wing. *Etym.*, *ελυτρον*, *elytron*, a sheath.
- ENTOMOSTRACA.** Cuvier's second section of Crustacea; so called from their relationship to insects. *Etym.*, *εντομα*, *entoma*, insects.
- EOCENE.** A name given to the lowest division of the tertiary strata, containing an extremely small per-centage of living species amongst its fossil shells, which indicate the first commencement or dawn of the existing state of the animate creation. *Etym.*, *ηως*, *eos*, aurora or the dawn, and *καινος*, *kainos*, recent.
- ESCARPMENT.** The abrupt face of a ridge of high land. *Etym.*, *escarper*, French, to cut steep.
- ESTUARIES.** Inlets of the land, which are entered both by rivers and the tides of the sea. Thus we have the estuaries of the Thames, Severn, Tay, &c. *Etym.*, *astus*, the tide.
- EXPERIMENTUM CRUCIS.** A decisive experiment, so called, because, like a cross or direction-post, it directs men to true knowledge; or, as some explain it, because it is a kind of torture whereby the nature of the thing is extorted, as it were, by violence.
- EXUVIÆ.** Properly speaking, the transient parts of certain animals which they put off or lay down to assume new ones, as serpents and caterpillars shift their skins; but in geology it refers not only to the cast-off coverings of animals, but to fossil shells and other remains which animals have left in the strata of the earth. *Etym.*, *exuere*, to put off or divest.

**FALUNS.** A French provincial name for some tertiary strata abounding in shells in Touraine, which resemble in lithological characters the "Crag" of Norfolk and Suffolk.

**FAULT,** in the language of miners, is the sudden interruption of the continuity of strata in the same plane, accompanied by a crack or fissure, varying in width



from a mere line to several feet, which is generally filled with broken stone, clay, &c.

The strata, *a*, *b*, *c*, &c. must at one time have been continuous; but a fracture having taken place at the fault *F*, either by the upheaving of the portion *A*, or the sinking of the portion *B*, the strata were so displaced that the bed *a* in *B* is many feet

lower than the same bed *a* in the portion *A*.

**FAUNA.** The various kinds of animals peculiar to a country constitute its **FAUNA**, as the various kinds of plants constitute its **FLORA**. The term is derived from the **FAUNI**, or rural deities, in Roman Mythology.

**FELSPAR.** A simple mineral, which, next to quartz, constitutes the chief material of rocks. The white angular portions in granite are felspar. This mineral always contains some alkali in its composition. In *common felspar* the alkali is potash; in another variety, called *Albite* or *Cleavlandite*, it is soda. Glassy