

consists in part of continuous beds of petrified coral, for the most part retaining the position in which they grew at the bottom of the sea.'—*Lyell*. Another subdivision is the Oxford clay.

10. Lower Oolite.—'The slate of Stonesfield, only six feet thick, but abounding in fossils, has been shown to be at the base of the inferior Oolite. Besides fragments of wood which occur in all parts of the Oolitic group, there are many impressions of ferns, cycadæ, and other terrestrial plants. Several insects, also, and among the rest the wing covers of beetles are perfectly preserved.'—*Lyell*. In these strata are the earliest remains of terrestrial mammalia as yet found.

11. Lias.—This is a provincial name for a particular kind of limestone,—here employed to denote a group of strata in which it is found. Classed by some geologists with the Oolitic strata. The fossil fish resemble generically those of the Oolite, are all of extinct genera, and differ widely from those of the Chalk. 'It is not, however, the fossil fish which form the most striking feature in the organic remains of the Lias; but the reptiles which are extraordinary for their number, size, and structure. Among the most singular of these are several species of *Ichthyosaurus* and *Plesiosaurus*. . . It is evident from their fish-like vertebræ, their paddles, resembling those of a porpoise or whale, the length of their tail, and other parts of their structure, that the habits of the *Ichthyosaurus* [fish-lizard] were aquatic. Their jaws and teeth show that they were carnivorous; and the half-digested remains of fishes and reptiles found within their skeletons, indicate the precise nature of their food.'—*Lyell*. The genus *Ichthyosaurus* is not confined to this formation.'—*Ib.*