

CHAPTER IX.

CARBONIFEROUS SERIES.

CARBONIFEROUS ROCKS.—In the south and middle of England, the Carboniferous rocks consist chiefly of Limestone at the base and Coal-measures above. Including the South Wales, the Forest of Dean, the Somersetshire and other areas, a typical section of the beds is as follows:—

	Feet.	Feet.
Coal-measures	1,000 to	12,000
Millstone grit	500 „	1,000
Yoredale rocks	100 „	1,000
Carboniferous or Mountain Limestone	500 „	2,500
Carboniferous Limestone shale	100 „	500
Yellow Sandstone with plants, Ireland, &c.	100 „	200

Generally resting on Old Red Sandstone.

The *Yellow Sandstone* beds often form a passage from the Old Red Sandstone to the Carboniferous rocks, and the plants have carboniferous affinities. The accompanying *shales* in Pembrokeshire and elsewhere, contain numerous fish-teeth, *Spirifers*, *Productas*, and a few *Lingulas*; and the Carboniferous *Limestone*, which is more than 2,000 feet thick in South Wales, and in Somersetshire, is so highly fossiliferous that it may be stated that the whole of the limestone once formed parts of animals. The lowest 500 feet consists chiefly of fragments of *Encrinites*. The Yoredale rocks of Yorkshire have no precise lithological parallel in