

which was rewarded by the discovery of about twenty species of mammals, belonging to the genera *Spalacotherium*, *Amblotherium*, *Peralistis*, *Achyrodon*, *Pterospalax*, *Peramus*, *Stylodon*, *Bolodon*, *Triconodon*, *Triacanthodon*, and *Plagiaulax*. They are altogether marsupial, and probably this Mesozoic mammalian life was 'low, insignificant in size and power, adapted for insect-food, for preying upon small lizards, or on the smaller and weaker members of their own low mammalian grade' (Owen). This mammalian fauna, as far as it goes, at once suggests comparison with the existing fauna of Australia, and the flora of the time has in part like analogies.

Overlying the Purbeck Limestone, in the Isle of Purbeck, there are thick accumulations of interstratified sand and clay, which belong to the geological horizon of the Hastings Sand and Weald Clay. They are well seen on the coast cliffs of Swanage Bay, and as far as I know have yielded no fossils excepting fragments of fossilised wood (fig. 75, p. 347).

In the Isle of Wight, strata of the same general age lie on the south-west coast, between Cowleaze Chine and the neighbourhood of Compton Bay. In these there occur *Cyrena* and *Cypris* and fragments of lignite, and similar strata with the same kind of fossil remains are found at the northern end of Sandown Bay.

But the largest area of these estuarine beds now exposed at the surface in England, is that of the Weald of Kent and Sussex, which, between the North and South Downs and the Lower Greensand, extends from the great shingle banks of Dungeness on the east, to the neighbourhood of Petersfield on the west, embracing an area of about 80 miles in length, by about 25 miles in breadth where its width is greatest. For the strati-