

side of the great Chalk escarpment, between Devizes and the Wash, the Lower Greensand is often ferruginous, and has been worked for iron ore both in ancient and modern times. Fossil wood is of frequent occurrence, perhaps of Coniferous trees, and all the evidence tends to show that, in the English area, the strata were deposited in comparatively shallow seas not far from shore.

The general characters of the fossils of the series are as follows:—Echinoderms of the genera *Salenia*, *Cardiaster*, *Diadema*, *Discoidea*, *Echinobrissus*, together with *Pentacrinites*, are found in it. *Terebratulæ* and *Rhynchonellæ* are of frequent occurrence, with a few other Brachiopoda. Among the Lamellibranchiate molluscs are numerous *Limas*, *Gervillias*, *Perna*, *Oysters*, *Pectens*, and *Pinnas*, together with shells of the genera *Cardium*, *Venus*, *Trigonia*, *Myacites*, and *Nucula*. Gasteropoda are not generally numerous. Cephalopoda of remarkable forms are characteristic; for, in addition to several species of *Ammonites*, *Nautili*, and *Belemnites*, there are *Crioceras*, and *Ancyloceras*, like *Ammonites* half unrolled, *Crioceras Bowerbankii*, *Ancyloceras gigas*, *A. grande*, and *A. Hillsii*. Fishes are scarce, and only three reptiles have hitherto been described, one Chelonian, *Protelys serrata*, a *Plesiosaurus*, and a crocodilian saurian *Polyptychodon continuus*, said also to occur in the Lower Chalk.

Out of about 300 Lower Greensand species, 18 or 20 per cent. pass into the *Upper Cretaceous* series. Partly for palæontological considerations, and also because the Gault seems sometimes to lie, as it were, unconformably on the eroded surface of the sand, the dissimilarity in the grouping of fossils is so great, that