The surface of the plain, according to Mr. Pengelly, consists of sandy clay, which contains a large number of angular and subangular stones lying unconformably on the Miocene strata, which consist of numerous beds of sand, clay, and, in the northern part, of lignite. According to Mr. Horace Woodward, the total thickness of these strata may be from 200 to 300 feet. The whole of these Miocene beds give the impression that they were originally deposited in a lake hollow, the sands and clays having been derived from the waste of the neighbouring Greensand and the granite of Dartmoor, while the vegetable matter that now forms the lignites consisted of stems and leaves of trees, fruits, ferns, &c., which were drifted by the streams of the time into the lake, where they got water-logged and sank, to be buried in the gradually accumulating strata.

In the northern part of the area, where the Bovey coal (lignite) occurs, near Bovey Tracey, the beds, according to Mr. Pengelly, dip at an angle of $12\frac{1}{2}°$, about 15° south of west, while according to Mr. Woodward, further south they dip much in the same direction about 5°. The lignite division of the strata is separated from the more southern clayey part of the area by a fault, probably of about 100 feet. In the opinion of Mr. Pengelly and Mr. Woodward, the strata south and east of the fault belong to an upper part of the series, which originally spread over that part of the strata in which the beds of lignite are found, having since been removed by denudation.

When we consider the effect of the fault, and also of the inclination of the strata, it is evident that the formation as originally deposited, must have spread beyond its present limits in the direction of the surrounding hills, and that the old lake probably washed