

certain fragmentary outliers described by Professor Prestwich. These by some persons have been supposed to be outliers of the Lower Eocene strata, called the Woolwich and Reading beds, but Professor Prestwich considers them to belong to part of the Crag. The physical evidence seems to me to be in favour of the former.

If they belong to any part of the Eocene series, then, as they lie as it were accidentally conformably on the Chalk, they were evidently affected by the disturbance that raised the Wealden into an anticlinal curve, and depressed the Chalk and overlying Eocene beds into the now divided synclinal curves of the London and Hampshire basins, and therefore, the beginning of the chief denudation of the Weald, by which it gradually assumed its present form, *was post-Eocene*. Under these circumstances it is probable that the Eocene beds themselves were cut across during the gradual formation of the plain of marine denudation. On the other hand, if the outliers on the Chalk escarpment west of Folkestone be parts of the Crag beds, then it is possible that strata of the Crag may have been deposited upon that plain, and found their way into those isolated petty pot-holes in which the fossils were found, and in that case the bay-like denudation of the Weald has probably taken place since that epoch, implying a lapse of time so long, that by natural processes alone, nearly half the marine mollusca, and probably nearly all the terrestrial species of mammalia of the world, have disappeared and been slowly replaced by others. This may mean little to those who still believe in the sudden extinction of whole races of life; but to me it signifies a period analogous to the distance of a half-resolved nebula, the elements as yet being wanting