conclusion. Geologists have considered these facts, and have settled on the principle that the long history of sedimentation has been divided into zons corresponding to successive conditions of the world. Names have been assigned to these zons. Thus, the first series of sediments formed the strata which lie deepest of all. They are called *Eozoic*, and the zon during which they were accumulating is the *Eozoic Acon*. We will not pause here to inquire what these sediments rested on—in other words, what kind of rocks formed the bed of the sea, at the beginning of that *Æ*on. The ocean must have had some solid bottom; but of course, it was a bottom formed when there was no ocean; for otherwise, the Eozoic strata would not be the bottom strata.

The EOZOIC GREAT SYSTEM of strata is at least fifty thousand feet thick. In the next zon the changed conditions gave origin to changed strata. They constitute a Great System known as the PALÆOZOIC; and the time during which this system of strata was accumulated, is the PALÆOZOIC ÆON. Next after this, came the MESOZOIC ÆON, during which the MESOZOIC GREAT SYSTEM of strata was accumulated. Lastly, followed the CÆN'-0-ZOIC ÆON, which continues to the present. The strata formed constitute the CÆNO-ZOIC GREAT SYSTEM. Now, before we take another walk, these names must be well learned.

## XII. MYSTERIOUS FORMS OF LIFE.

FOSSILS.

EVERY one has noticed the curious forms found in the Drift, which so much resemble shells and corals, and buttons or beads. Often they lie loose in the soil; and often we see them imbedded in fragments of limestones and sandstones which are sometimes bowlders transported from a distance, and sometimes fragments derived from a neighboring ledge or *outcrop* of stratified rocks. In the cliffs at Panama are occasional traces of shells, both bivalve and univalve. The latter