

rence in them of a number of the same characteristic species or genera, may be called beds or an assise, as in the "Micraster beds or assise" of the Cretaceous system, which include the zones of *M. cor-testudinarium* and *M. cor-anguinum*. Two or more sets of such connected beds or assises may be termed a group or stage (*étage*). In some cases, where the number of assises in a stage is large, they are grouped into sub-stages (*sous-étages*) or sub-groups. Each sub-stage or sub-group will then consist of several assises, and the stage or group of several sub-stages or sub-groups. A number of groups or stages constitutes a series, section (*Abtheilung*), or formation, and a number of series, sections, or formations may be united into a system.⁴

brian and Silurian systems (Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. ser. 5, vols. iii. iv. v. vi. 1879-80, see especially the last part of his paper in vol. vi. p. 196 *et seq.*) See also postea, Book VI., Part II., Sect. ii., § 2, "Local Development."

⁴ Compare Hébert, Ann. Sci. Geol. xi. 1881. The unification of geological nomenclature throughout the world is one of the objects aimed at by the "International Geological Congress," which at its meeting at Bologna recommended the adoption of the following terms, the most comprehensive being placed first:

<i>Divisions of sedimentary formations</i>	<i>Corresponding chronological terms</i>
Group.	Era.
System.	Period.
Series.	Epoch.
Stage.	Age.

As equivalents of Series, the terms Section or *Abtheilung* may be used: as a subdivision of Stage, the words Beds or Assise.

"According to this scheme," Mr. Topley, one of the secretaries, remarks, "we would speak of the Palæozoic Group or Era, the Silurian System or Period, the Ludlow Series or Epoch, and the Aymestry Stage or Age. The term 'formation' raises a difficulty, because this word is used by English geologists in a sense unknown abroad. To bring our nomenclature into conformity with that of other nations it will be necessary to use the word only as descriptive of the mode of formation, or of the material composing the rock. We may speak of the 'Carboniferous Formation' as a group of beds containing coal; but not as a name for a set of rocks apart from the mineral contents. In like manner, we may speak of the 'Chalk Formation,' but not of the 'Cretaceous Formation'" (Geol. Mag. 1881, p. 557; *Compte rendu*, 2me Cong. Geol. Bologna, 1881). It may be doubted whether the recommendations of any congress, international or other, will be powerful enough to alter the established usages of the language. The term *group* has been so universally employed in English literature for a