Compsemys), and reptiles (Crocodilus, Agathaumus, etc.). This group is by some geologists placed among the Tertiary systems, or as a passage series between the Cretaceous and Eocene systems (see p. 1612). Thickness in Green River basin 5000 feet.

On this horizon come the "Ceratops beds" of Wyoming, 3000 feet thick, which rest directly upon the Fox Hills group. They consist of alternating sandstones, shales, and lignites, and are remarkable for the extraordinary number and wonderful preservation of the deinosaurs, mammals, and other forms which they have yielded.[182]

Fox Hills group.—Gray, rusty, and buff sandstones, with numerous beds of coal and interstratifications containing a varied assemblage of marine shells (Belemnitella, Nautilus, Ammonites, Baculites, Mosasaurus, etc.). Thickness on the great plains 1500 feet, which in the Green River basin expands to from 3000 to 4000 feet.

Colorado group.—Calcareous shales and clays with a central sandy series, and, in the Wahsatch region, seams of coal as well as fluviatile and marine shells. Thickness east of the Rocky Mountains 800 to 1000 feet, but westward in the region of the Uinta and Wahsatch Mountains 2000 feet. This group was proposed and named by Hayden and Clarence King to include the following sub-groups in the original classification of Messrs. Meek and Hayden in the Missouri region:

Fort Pierre sub-group. — Carbonaceous shales, marls, and clays (Inoceramus Barabini, Baculites ovatus, Scaphites nodosus, Ammonites, Ostrea congesta, etc.).

Niobrara sub-group.—Chalky marls and bituminous limestones (Baculites, Inoceramus deformis, I. problematicus, Ostrea congesta, fish remains).

Fort Benton sub-group.—Shales, clays, and limestones (Scaphites warrenensis, Ammonites, Prionocyclas Woolgari, Ostrea congesta).

Dakota group, composed of a persistent basal conglomerate (which is 200 feet thick and very coarse in the

[182] J. B. Hatcher, Amer. Journ. Sci. xlv. 1893, p. 135.