arine deposit. It is now agreed that the group of strata known as the Forest-bed series may be divided into three groups, an upper and lower fresh-water bed separated by an estuarine layer. The general character of the strata comprised in this member of the Pliocene series is shown in the subjoined table:

Leda myalis Bed (p. 1663).

Upper Fresh-water Bed, consisting of sand mixed with blue clay, 2-7 feet, and inclosing twigs and shells (Succinea putris, Cyclas cornea, Valvata piscinalis, Bythinia tentaculata, Pisidium amnicum, etc.).

Forest-bed (estuarine), composed of laminated clay and lignite, alternating gravels and sands with pebbles, cakes of peat, branches and stumps of trees, and mammalian bones, etc. (ranging up to more than 20 feet in thickness).

Cromer Forest-bed

Group.

Lower Fresh-water Bed, made up of carbonaceous, green, clayey silt full of seeds, with laminated lignite and loam. Weybourn Crag.

The vegetation preserved in this group of strata embraces at least 56 species of flowering plants, two of which, the water chestnut and spruce fir, do not appear to have belonged to the British flora since the Glacial period; the others are nearly all still living in Norfolk. The variety of forest-trees points to a mild and moist climate; they include the maple, sloe, hawthorn, cornel, elm, birch, alder, hornbeam, hazel, oak, beech, willow, yew, pine, and spruce. The land and fresh-water shells number 58 species, whereof five appear to be extinct (Limax modioliformis, Nematura runtoniana, Paludina glacialis, P. media, Pisidium astartoides) and five no longer live in Britain (including Hydrobia Steinii, Valvata fluviatilis, Corbicula fluminalis). The known marine shells in the Forest-bed series are so few in number (19 species) that they do not afford a satisfactory basis for comparison with other parts of the Pliocene formations. Some of them may have been washed out of the Weybourn Crag below, and they are all common Weybourn Crag fossils, including several extinct species (Melampus pyramidalis, Tellina obliqua, Nucula Cobboldiæ). They indicate that the climate of the time when they lived was probably not greatly different from that of the present day. Fourteen species of fishes have been recognized (Platax Woodwardi, cod, and tunny among marine forms, also perch, pike, barbel, tench, and sturgeon among fluviatile kinds). The fauna also includes two reptiles (Tropidonotus natrix, Pelias berus), four amphibians (frogs and tritons), five birds (eagle-owl, cormorant, wild goose, wild duck, shoveller duck), and fifty-nine mammals. These last-

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