

Stratified rocks, composed of lime, clay, or sandstone, under the denominations of lias, oolite, Wealden or Sussex beds, Stones-field slate, &c., are visible in the south of England, and extend to many parts of Europe: and these strata contain a great variety of those oviparous reptiles. There is every appearance of these deposits having been submerged and deeply buried in the ocean: from which thick beds of chalk have been deposited over them. Above the chalk, again, are to be found a series of stratified rocks, implying a new condition.

The lowest layer of this "tertiary formation" is sometimes called the product of the Palæotherian period: during its deposit, animals of a distinct creation, the species of which cannot be identified with those imbedded in the strata under the chalk, are found. Here, for the first time, there was a condition of the earth suited for terrestrial animals, which retired under the shade of woods and gave suck, the mammalia. Yet it is remarkable, that in this, the lowest stratification of the tertiary formation, the animals of the class mammalia only approached to the condition of those which are now alive: we find the remains only of such as are now extinct.

When the layers forming the tertiary beds are examined in succession upwards, they are still distinguishable by their organic products: and