

13. Alluvium composed of clay, sand and gravel, the gravel chiefly consisting of chalk flints, both rolled and angular, with a few pebbles of quartz, and of brown compact sandstone. This alluvium is covered with vegetable mould..... —

The oysters of No. 2 are remarkably perfect when first laid open, and seem to have undergone no process of mineralisation; they soon fall to pieces by exposure to air and moisture. The chalk flints contained in it are many of them in the state of small rounded pebbles; in others the angles are unbroken. Both varieties are covered with a crust of greenish earth of the same nature with the green particles in the sand. The angular flints appear to have been derived from the partial destruction of the bed of chalk immediately subjacent, of which the upper surface in contact with the sand is considerably decomposed to the depth of about a foot, and its fissures and numerous small tubular cavities (the latter derived apparently from the decay of organic substances) are filled with granular particles of the green earth and siliceous sand, the incumbent stratum.

In other large quarries of brick earth on St. David's hill, west of Reading, and only a quarter of a mile distant from the Catsgrove, many of the subdivisions noted in the latter do not appear.

The prevailing organic remains found near Reading are oyster shells, and these are found only in the lower bed consisting of sand mixed with green particles. Teeth apparently of sharks are mingled in the mass.

(b) *Near London.*

Very little attention has yet been given to the beds of this formation immediately on the north or north-east of the metropolis, but Woodward mentions oysters as being found on the north side of the Thames, in a stratum of sand that covers the chalk near Hertford: this probably is one of the oyster beds of this formation. (G. T. vol. iv. p. 293).

A section of the beds of this formation, underlying the Blue clay near London, is given below, in an account of the beds passed through in sinking a well at Messrs. Liptrap & Smith's distillery.*

* Section afforded by the sinking of a well at Liptrap & Smith's distillery, one mile on the east of London. (P.)

	Surface of ground 36 feet above high-water mark.
Alluvium....	{ 7 feet of earth and other substances
	{ 22 feet of gravel and sand—containing <i>land springs</i>
London Clay	77 feet of Blue clay