

ary rocks. But, as the science advanced, an intermediate class appeared necessary to comprehend a series of beds formed of the fragments of primary rocks, and was adopted under the name of the Transition or Fragmentary class. Another division, called the Tertiary, to comprise the upper beds of the Secondary, has since been added, so that, according to this system, the substances which form the crust of the globe may be arranged in the four following classes, beginning with the lowest :—

1. The Primary, or Crystalline.
2. The Transition, or Fragmentary.
3. The Secondary, or Sedimentary.
4. The Tertiary, or Upper Secondary.

This classification was universally adopted in this country, till the publication of "Conybeare's Geology of England and Wales." In this work a new classification was adopted, and the crust of the earth was divided into five portions, forming the following classes :—

1. The superior, containing the tertiary deposits.
2. The supermedial, containing the upper portion of the secondary class.
3. The medial, containing the coal series and the lower portion of the secondary rocks.
4. The submedial, comprising the transition rocks.
5. The inferior, containing the primitives.

The most convenient and useful classification that has been introduced, we think, is that proposed some time since by M. De la Beche, in the *Annals of Philosophy*, and recently adopted with great success in his *Manual of Geology*. But there are many objections to the introduction of new classifications; and geologists do not always adopt those suggestions which they may consider improvements. By using an established classification, the learned of different nations are able to understand each other's writings; but when new arrangements are adopted, a considerable time must elapse before a foreigner is made acquainted with the change; and even then, prejudice would, in many instances, prevent its adoption. Such alterations can only be effectually introduced by societies, or the combination of writers; for, generally speaking, an old nomenclature, with all its imperfections, will be preferred to a modern improvement. But the system proposed by M. De la Beche is, in our esti-