

cockles, mussels, whelks, &c.,—all of them species existing at this time in the Baltic, with only a thin covering of vegetable mould on the surface. I feel sure that some of these excavations are twenty feet deep ; yet that is not the whole thickness of the shell-bed." In the fact of the identity of these shells with those that still live in the neighbouring sea, we have an evidence of the comparative recentness of the upheaval of the land. In our own country, it is only those shells that lie embedded in the terrace which underlies the old-coast line that are identical, in at least the group, with the existing ones of the littoral and laminarian zones beyond. The higher lying shells, not yet extinct, which occur in Britain at various heights, from fifty to fourteen hundred feet over the present sea-line, are, as a group, sub-arctic, and belong to the ice-age.

In one important circumstance, however, Norway and our own country must have had an exactly similar history. In both, the climate has been greatly more mild since at least the historic ages began, than it was in an earlier time. When Scotland had its glaciers and snow wastes, Norway seems to have been enveloped in ice ; whereas its climate is now one of the finest in the world for the same lines of latitude. That great gulf-stream which casts so liberally on the northern shores of Europe the tepid water of the tropics, is no doubt one of the main causes of this superiority in the climate of both Norway and our own country over all other countries in the same parallels. "It has been calculated," says Professor Forbes, "that the heat thrown into the Atlantic Ocean by the gulf-stream in a winter's day would suffice to raise the temperature of the part of the atmosphere which rests upon France and Great Britain from the freezing point to summer heat." And such are the effects on the distant coast of Norway, that, under the arctic circle, or at least the sea-coast, the mercury rarely sinks beneath zero. The absence