

Plants are rare in the purely marine strata of Gloucestershire and the south of England, but fragments of coniferous trees are sometimes found, the most remarkable of which is a large cone of *Araucarites hemisphæricus*. This, in addition to the nature and multiplicity of genera and species of the marine fauna, plainly tells of land not far off, a fact that will become still more clear as we get further on with the history of the Oolites, and its bearing on the old physical geography of the land of the Oolitic epoch.

THE FULLER'S EARTH accompanies and overlies the Inferior Oolite through the whole length of this area, excepting where locally interrupted by faults. It consists chiefly of tenacious bluish clay, with frequent thin shelly bands of limestone, often largely charged with a small oyster, *Ostrea acuminata*, and with Terebratulæ. In the neighbourhood and south of Bath a strong band of limestone lies in the middle of the clay, known as the Fuller's Earth Rock.

Near Upper Slaughter in Oxfordshire, this subformation entirely thins away, and is known no more. Its greatest thickness, near Bath, is about 200 feet. The name was originally given to it by William Smith, because in places it contains beds of Fuller's Earth, long ago much used in the famous woollen factories of Gloucestershire. I call it a subformation, because very many of its fossils are also common in the Inferior Oolite, though a few are peculiar.

THE GREAT or BATH OOLITE of this southern half of England succeeds the Fuller's Earth, and consists, when fully developed, of

Forest Marble.
Great Oolite.
Stonesfield Slate.