

remarkable manner the same lithological character, showing evidence of deposition in shallow water. It is partly formed of pale marly limestones and clays, passing in places into shelly, and occasionally oolitic, building-stones. When partly decomposed near the surface, it assumes a rubbly character, and forms a fertile soil, whence its agricultural name of Cornbrash, the word *brash* being an old word expressive of this loose rubbly character.

The Cornbrash is generally very fossiliferous, the general assemblage of genera of Echinoderms, corals, Cephalopoda, Brachiopoda, Lamellibranchiata, &c. being much the same as in the Great and Inferior Oolites. So much, indeed, is this the case, that of the forms found in the Great Oolite, 100 species pass into the Cornbrash, while of those in the Inferior Oolite, 89 species pass up into the same formation.

This community of forms is very important, showing as it does, that if some of the Inferior Oolite species are absent in the Fuller's Earth and Great Oolite, they must, nevertheless, during the deposition of these strata, have lived elsewhere, and returned in a later time, that of the Cornbrash, to inhabit the same area when a congenial set of marine conditions ensued, thus establishing a strong and direct succession of life through the whole of these formations which together, in the language of the day, form the *Lower Oolite*. In fact, this division of these strata into *formations*, is in great part lithological, and the difference of faunas in them was dependent on changes of conditions of depth &c. in a sea, where limestone, sands, or clays were being deposited. The four so-called Oolitic formations already described, may in truth be spoken of as one, there being not much more difference between their fossils,