

during the Eocene epoch, when our land formed part of a continent differing in many great details from modern Europe, which, in its physical geography, underwent most important modifications, both before and during the deposition of the Miocene strata. Other great local changes afterwards brought the Miocene epoch to a close. I use such terms as these for want of better, for since the beginning of geological time, no epoch had either a definite beginning or a definite end, and, in a world-wide scale, the various epochs merged into each other like the colours in a rainbow, or the so-called epochs of the history of nations, which have only a local significance, when they are taken in connection with the history of the whole human race.