

Mendip Hills, a remarkable littoral breccia or conglomerate occurs. Over Carboniferous Limestone it consists mainly of limestone, and is precisely like "brockram" (p. 1402), but in the slaty tracts of Devonshire, the fragments are of slate, porphyry, granite, etc. Its matrix being sometimes dolomitic, it has been called the Dolomitic conglomerate; but it occasionally passes into a magnesian limestone. It represents the shore deposits of the Trias salt-lake or inland sea, and, as it lies on many successive horizons, we see that the conditions for its formation persisted during the subsidence by which the Mendips and other land of this region were gradually depressed and obliterated under the red sandstones and marls (see Figs. 219, 220, 221).¹¹ The Dolomitic conglomerate averages 20 feet in thickness, but here and there rises into cliffs 40 or 50 feet high. It has yielded two genera of dinosaurs (*Palæosaurus*, *Thecodontosaurus*).¹² Some geologists have regarded this band of rock as an English representative of the German *Muschelkalk*. But the manner in which it ascends along what was the margin of the Triassic land shows it to be a local base occupying successive horizons in the red rocks. There is no equivalent of the *Muschelkalk* in Britain, unless the middle division of the Devonshire Trias can be so regarded.¹³

The lower Keuper group is composed of red and white sandstones with occasional lenticular bands of coarser material, and like the corresponding strata in the Bunter group, is generally unfossiliferous, but has furnished many amphibian footprints. The surfaces of the sandstone-beds are likewise impressed with rain-drops and are marked with desiccation-cracks and ripple-marks, suggestive of flat shores exposed to the air.

In the upper Keuper group the sediments were generally muddy and now appear as red and variegated marls with occasional partings of sandstone or bands of dolomite or gypsum. Among these strata are beds of rock-salt varying from a few inches to more than 100 feet in thickness. The marly character of the upper Keuper is a distinguishing feature of the group from the south of Scotland to the south of Devonshire, and from Antrim to the east of Yorkshire. Throughout this wide area cubical casts of salt (chloride

¹¹ De la Beche, *Mem. Geol. Survey*, i. p. 240. H. B. Woodward, "Geology of East Somerset and Bristol Coal-fields," *Mem. Geol. Survey*, 1876, p. 53.

¹² Etheridge, *Q. J. Geol. Soc.* xxvi. 174.

¹³ Usher, *op. cit.* xxiv. p. 469.