

placunea, Ammonites Deshayesi, *A. cornuelianus*, *Ancyloceras gigas*, *A. Hilsii*, *Belemnites semicanaliculatus*, *Crioceras Bowerbankii*. Some of these fossils are found also in the Sandgate beds, while the upper part of the Folkestone beds yields likewise *Amm. mamillaris*. The Hythe and Sandgate beds may therefore represent the Aptian stage, while the Folkestone subdivision may be regarded as the equivalent of the lower part of the Albian.¹³¹

Of the total assemblage of fossils from the "Lower Greensand," about 300 in number, only 18 or 20 per cent pass up into the Upper Cretaceous series. This marked palæontological break, taken in connection with a great lithological change, and with an unconformability which in Dorset brings the Gault directly upon the Kimeridge Clay, shows that a definite boundary line can be drawn between the lower and upper parts of the Cretaceous system in England.

UPPER CRETACEOUS.—Three leading lithological groups have long been recognized as constituting the Upper Cretaceous series of England. First, a band of clay termed the Gault; second, a variable and inconstant group of sand and sandstones called the "Upper Greensand"; and, third, a massive calcareous formation chiefly composed of white chalk. But the foreign nomenclature, founded mainly on palæontological considerations, and given in the foregoing table (p. 1544), may now be adopted, as it brings the English Upper Cretaceous groups into recognizable parallelism with their continental equivalents.

Gault¹³² (Albian).—A dark, stiff, blue, sometimes sandy or calcareous clay, with layers of pyritous and phosphatic nodules and occasional seams of green sand. It varies from 100 to more than 300 feet in thickness, forming a marked line of boundary between the Upper and Lower Cretaceous rocks, overlapping the latter and resting sometimes even on the Kimeridge Clay. One of the best sections is that of Copt Point, on the coast near Folkestone, where the following subdivisions have been established by Messrs. De Rance and Price:¹³³

¹³¹ For explanations of these and the other Cretaceous stratigraphical terms, which have been chiefly founded on the names of continental localities or districts where the several subdivisions are especially well developed, see the footnotes on the succeeding pages.

¹³² "Gault" is a Cambridgeshire provincial name.

¹³³ C. E. De Rance, *Geol. Mag.* v. p. 163; i. (2) p. 246; F. G. H. Price, *Q. J. Geol. Soc.* xxx. p. 342; "The Gault," 8vo, London, 1879.