is found in England.[35] In the Paris basin, these strata present variable and local characters. They include the Marnes de Meudon, remarkable for containing 20 per cent of carbonate of strontia; and the limestones of Rilly and Sézanne—a form of travertine from which fresh-water shells and a rich assemblage of plants have been obtained (Chara, Asplenium, Alsophylla, Juglandites, Sassafras, Hedera, etc.).[36] To the north of Paris, the Marnes de Meudon disappear, and their place is taken by the Sables de Bracheux —greenish glauconitic sands with a basement-band of green-coated flints resting generally directly on the Chalk. This sandy member of the series, traceable as a definite platform through the Anglo-French and Belgian area, contains among its characterstic fossils Pholadomya cuneata, P. Koninckii, Cyprina Morrisii, Cucullæa crassatina, Pecten breviauritus, Psammobia Edwardsii, Ostrea bellovacina, Corbula regulbiensis, Turritella bellovacina, Natica deshayesiana, Voluta depressa. Higher in the series comes the "Argile plastique" of the Paris basin, with the associated lignites of the Soissonnais. The molluscan fauna of these strata resembles that of the Woolwich and Reading beds. But a break seems to occur in the series at this point; for in the Paris basin no representative of the London Clay is found. The lignites of the Soissonnais are covered by sands (Sables de Cuise or du Soissonnais) containing, among other abundant marine organisms, Nummulites planulata, Turritella edita, T. hebrida, Crassatella propinqua, Lucina squamula; they are regarded as the equivalent of the lower part of the English Bagshot Sand, and form the highest member of the Lower Eocene stages of the Paris basin.

In the Belgian area, some differences are presented in the succession of sediments. The strata of that district have been grouped by Dumont into a series of "systèmes." The most ancient Tertiary deposit of the west of Europe appears to be the limestone of Mons (Système Montien). This rock lies in a denuded hollow of the Chalk, and has been found by boring to be more than 300 feet thick. It consists of friable and compact limestone, charged with a remarkable series of organic remains. Upward of 400 species of fossils have been obtained from it, including marine, fresh-water,

---

[35] Hébert, Ann. Sciences Geol. iv. 1873, Art. iv. p. 14.

[36] Saporta, Mem. Soc. Geol. France (2) viii.; "Le Mondes des Plantes," p. 212 *et seq.*