diminish with the antiquity of the deposits, and it was once supposed that this type of molluscous organization was not contemporaneous with the ancient Cephalopoda. My discovery of several genera associated with Ammonites in the chalk (see Foss. South D. Pl. XVIII. XIX.), first tended to invalidate this hypothesis; and the subsequent researches of Dr. Fitton, Professor Phillips, and other geologists, have shown that the presence or absence of Gasteropoda in a stratum, is to be ascribed to the circumstance of the deposit having been formed in shallow, or in deep water. Thus when simple univalves largely predominate, under circumstances that indicate they were imbedded in their native habitats, it may be safely concluded that the rock is of littoral formation; or, in other words, was deposited in shallow water, near the sea-shore; and, on the contrary, when Nautili, Ammonites, and the shells of other mollusca known to live in deep waters, abound in a formation, it may be presumed that the strata were formed in the tranquil depths of the ocean. The number of described species from the British strata is nearly eight hundred; and these are distributed throughout the sedimentary formations, from the Silurian to the newest Tertiary; the latter containing by far the greater proportion.

FRESH-WATER UNIVALVES.—The fossil shells of Gasteropoda that are undoubtedly fluviatile, comprise but few genera and species, and are confined

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