

Gault. It consists of a dark blue marl, sometimes intermixed with greensand. Many peculiar forms of cephalopoda, such as the *Hamite* (fig. 291)

## Fossils of the Upper Greensand.

Fig. 289.



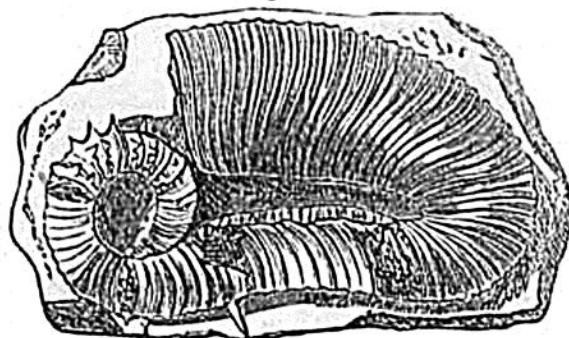
a. *Terebratula tyra*. } Upper Greensand.  
 b Same, seen in profile. } France.

Fig. 290.



*Ammonites Rhotomagensis*.  
 Upper Greensand.

Fig. 291.



*Hamites spiniger* (Fitton); near Folkstone. Gault.

and *Scaphite*, with other fossils, characterize this formation, which, small as is its thickness, can be traced by its organic remains to distant parts of Europe, as, for example, to the Alps.

The *Blackdown beds* in Dorsetshire, celebrated for containing many species of fossils not found elsewhere, have been commonly referred to the Upper Greensand, which they resemble in mineral character; but Mr. Sharpe has suggested, and apparently with reason, that they are rather the equivalent of the Gault, and were probably formed on the shore of the sea, in the deeper parts of which the fine mud called Gault was deposited. Several Blackdown species are common to the Lower cretaceous series, as, for example, *Trigonia caudata*, fig. 290. We learn from M. D'Archiac, that in France, at Mons, in the valley of the Loire, strata of greensand occur of the same age as the Blackdown beds, and containing many of the same fossils. They are also regarded as of littoral origin by M. D'Archiac.\*

The phosphate of lime, found near Farnham, in Surrey, in such abundance as to be used largely by the agriculturist for fertilizing soils, occurs exclusively, according to Mr. R. A. C. Austen, in the upper greensand and gault. It is doubtless of animal origin, and partly coprolitic, probably derived from the excrement of fish.

\* Hist. des Progrès de la Géol., &c., vol. iv. p. 360, 1851.