



Fig. 109. —General view of the succession of British strata, with the elevations they reach above the level of the sea.

G, Granitic rocks; *a*, Gneiss; *b*, Mica-schist; *c*, Skiddaw or Cumbrian Slates; *d*, Snowdon rocks; *e*, Plymmon rocks; *f*, Silurian rocks; *g*, Old Red Sandstone; *h*, Carboniferous Limestone; *i*, Millstone Grit; *k*, Coal-measures; *l*, Magnesian Limestone; *m*, New Red Sandstone; *n*, Lias; *o*, Lower, Middle, and Upper Oolites; *p*, Greensand; *q*, Chalk; *r*, Tertiary strata.

first quarried, is soft and easily worked, but becomes harder on exposure to the air.

The annexed section (Fig. 109) will give some idea of the configuration which the stratification assumes, such as may be observed in proceeding from the north-west to the south-east, from Caermarthenshire to the banks of the Ouse.

LOWER OOLITE FAUNA.

The most salient and characteristic feature of this age is, undoubtedly, the appearance of animals belonging to the class of Mammals. But the organisation, quite special, of the first of the Mammalia will certainly be a matter of astonishment to the reader, and must satisfy him that Nature proceeded in the creation of animals by successive steps, by transitions which, in an almost imperceptible manner, connect the beings of one age with others more complicated in their organisation. The first Mammals which appeared upon the earth, for example, did not enjoy all the organic attributes belonging to the more recent creations of the class. In the latter the young are brought forth living, and not from eggs, like Birds, Reptiles, and Fishes. But the former belonged to that order of animals quite special, and never numerous, the young of which are transferred in a half-developed state, from the body of the mother to an external pouch in which they remain until they become perfected; in short, to marsupial animals. The mother nurses her young during a certain time in a sort of pouch external to the body, in the neighbourhood of the abdomen, and provided with teats to which the young adhere. After a more or less prolonged sojourn in this pouch, the young animal, when suffi-