

tribes, analogous to those of our days, lived in the seas of this period; they fled before the sharks and voracious dog-fishes, which now appeared in great numbers, after just showing themselves in the Oolitic period.

The sea was still full of Polyps, Sea-urchins, Crustaceans of various kinds, and many genera of Mollusca different from those of the Jurassic period; alongside of gigantic Lizards are whole piles of animalculæ—those Foraminifera whose remains are scattered in infinite profusion in the Chalk, over an enormous area and of immense thickness. The calcareous remains of these little beings, incalculable in number, have indeed covered, in all probability, a great part of the terrestrial surface. It will give a sufficient idea of the importance of the Cretaceous period in connection with these organisms to state that, in the rocks of the period, 268 genera of animals, hitherto unknown, and more than 5,000 species of special living beings have been found; the thickness of the rocks formed during the period being enormous. Where is the geologist who will venture to estimate the time occupied in creating and destroying the animated masses of which this formation is at once both the cemetery and the monument? For the purposes of description it will be convenient to divide the Cretaceous series into lower and upper, according to their relative ages and their peculiar fossils.

THE LOWER CRETACEOUS PERIOD.

English equivalents.	French classification.
Lower Greensand, upper part.	Étage Aptien st.
Lower Greensand, lower part.	„ Néocomien supérieur.
Weald clay and Hastings sands.	„ Néocomien inférieur.

The Lower Wealden or Hastings Sand consists of sand, sandstone, and calciferous grit, clay, and shale, the argillaceous strata predominating. This part of the Wealden consists, in descending order, of:—

	Fect.
Tunbridge Wells sand—Sandstone and loam	150
Wadhurst clay—Blue and brown shale and clay, with a little calc grit	100
Ashdown sands—Hard sand, with beds of calc grit	160
Ashburnham sands—Mottled, white, and red clay and sandstone	330

The Hastings sand has a hard bed of white sand in its upper part, whose steep natural cliffs produce the picturesque scenery of the “High rocks” of Hastings in Sussex.

Calcareous sandstone and grit, in which Dr. Mantell found the remains of the *Iguanodon* and *Hylæosaurus*, form an upper member