

of all the British formations. From west to east it stretches from the neighbourhood of Beaminster in Dorsetshire, to Beachy Head and the North Foreland, and passing beneath the Eocene formations of the Hampshire and London basins it spreads northward to Speeton, in Yorkshire.

The *Chloritic Marl* indicates a passage from the Upper Greensand into the Chalk. It consists of a chalky base specked with green grains, and varies from a few inches to a few feet in thickness. It is highly fossiliferous, abounding in *Ammonites*, *Nautili* (*N. lævigata*), and a small *Scaphite* (*S. æqualis*), besides *Oysters*, *Trigonias*, *Holaster*, &c., and many other Echinodermata.

The *Chalk Marl*, which lies above the Chloritic Marl when both are present, is merely chalk with a slight admixture of argillaceous matter, and with its predecessor by no means deserves to be considered as a separate formation. The whole, therefore, may be massed as *The Chalk*. It consists of a soft white limestone, generally much jointed where exposed in quarries, and but for lines of flints, the bedding would often be scarcely distinguishable. On minute examination with the microscope, much of the Chalk is found to consist of the shells of Foraminifera, Diatomaceæ, spiculæ and other remains of Sponges, Polyzoa, and shells, highly comminuted. Somewhat similar deposits are now forming in the open Atlantic at great depths, chiefly of Foraminifera of the genus *Globigerina*, *Polycystina* and Diatomaceæ, and spiculæ of Sponges. In the Pacific, also, from Java to the Low Archipelago, over an area of about 4,000 miles in length, all the deep-sea deposits are of fine, white, calcareous mud, like unconsolidated chalk. In its thickest development in England the Chalk is