

contrary, taken as a whole, all of the British Eocene formations may, in the widest sense, be spoken of as estuarine, for even the London Clay was evidently deposited in the broad mouth of a river like the Amazons or the Ganges; and nearly all the strata more or less contain evidence of the neighbourhood of land, in the bones of terrestrial and river mammalia, crocodiles, and gavials, serpents, birds, and numerous land plants. Pine cones, pods of acacia, fruits (*Nipadites ellipticus*), figs and laurels, lie thick in the London Clay of the Isle of Sheppey, and remind the beholder of the *Nipa fruticans*, a palm-nut that floats in the arms of the Delta of the Ganges.

The same kind of story is told in the Isle of Wight, in the beds of lignite found in the Bagshot and Bracklesham beds of Alum Bay. There, where the strata stand nearly vertically, it sometimes happens that each stratum can be accurately examined, and when last I did so, I observed under each bed of lignite a clay with rootlets in it, playing the same part to the Eocene lignites that the underclays do to the beds of coal of the Coal-measures, thus telling of marshes in the broad flats of the Eocene Delta, where vegetation growing and decaying formed beds of peat, that subsequently, buried under newer strata, became converted into lignite.

Strata in many ways similar to the Eocene rocks of England occur in France, in what is called the Paris basin, and in Belgium. It is not unlikely that with part of these estuarine strata, there may have been a direct connection with those of England, but whether or not, as yet I know of no data that tend to show from what direction this continental Eocene river flowed, or, in other words, what were the general shape and bearings