

part of the land through which the river flowed that deposited the Wealden and Purbeck beds, they were undergoing constant waste, so that in the course of time, having been previously tilted upwards to the west with an eastern dip (fig. 59), they were worn into what I have elsewhere termed a *plain of marine denudation* (see p. 497). The submergence of the Wealden area was followed by the progressive sinking of the Oolitic and older strata further west, so that, as the successive members of the Cretaceous formations were deposited, it happened that by slow sinking of the land, the Upper Cretaceous strata gradually overlapped the edges of the outcropping Oolitic and Liassic formations, till at length they were intruded on the New Red series, and even on the Palæozoic strata of Devonshire itself, as shown in fig. 59.

The upheaval of the Chalk into land brought this epoch to an end, and those conditions that contributed to its formation ceased in our area. As the uppermost member of the Upper Secondary rocks, it closes the record of Mesozoic times in England.

This brings us to the last divisions of the British strata which I shall now name. These were deposited on the Chalk, and are termed Eocene formations (No. 12, fig. 57, p. 304). At the base they consist of marine and estuary deposits, known as the Thanet Sand, and Woolwich and Reading beds, and which are of comparatively small thickness, say from 50 to 150 feet. These lie below the London Clay and form the outer border of the London basin. The Woolwich and Reading beds are found in the Isle of Wight, and in part constitute the Hampshire and London basins. In these we have in places the same kind of alternations of fresh-