

groups, referring all the deposits from the Caradoc series downwards to the Cambrian series. The high-spirited Cambridge Professor could, however, make no impression upon his contemporaries against his influential opponent, who in 1855 became the General Director of the Geological Survey. Indeed, the Council of the Geological Society in 1852 placed themselves openly on Murchison's side by passing a resolution to decline on principle any communication made by Sedgwick on the classification and nomenclature of the older Palæozoic deposits.

Nevertheless Sedgwick adhered to his own classification, and published a historical review of his researches on the Palæozoic rocks of Great Britain, which appeared as an introduction to an illustrated catalogue of Cambrian and Silurian fossils drawn up by J. W. Salter. Sedgwick, in this last scientific exposition of his views,—for he died in the year of its publication (1873),—emphasised once again the independence of the Cambrian deposits, showed that the Cambrian system contained characteristic fossils, distinct from those of the Silurian system, and that it was consequently founded upon secure palæontological data. In the end Sedgwick has been found right. The Cambrian system, although with a certain modification of its limits, is now recognised as an independent geological system represented throughout the whole earth.

*Special Stratigraphy.*—The general framework of stratigraphical teaching had thus been constructed by the works of Lyell, Deshayes, and Bronn on Cainozoic rocks, by those of Smith, Conybeare, and Phillips on Mesozoic rocks, and those of Sedgwick and Murchison on Palæozoic rocks. It was left for younger generations of geologists to work out the finer details and more accurate division of the successive formations. This task was willingly undertaken by a thousand diligent hands, not only in Europe but throughout the world. Little change has been made on the limits of the main divisions (formations or systems) of the stratigraphical framework, but the work of determining palæontological sequences in greater and greater detail is still in full progress, and the recognition of the minor stratigraphical members within the formations varies from time to time with the increasing knowledge and understanding of the geological structure of the earth's crust in Europe and other parts of the world.