

been in advance of that of the marine fauna (see p. 1111). Hence arise glaring anomalies in the attempts to group the geological formations of distant countries in conformity with European standards. As Mr. Blanford has well remarked, "in instances of conflicting evidence between terrestrial or freshwater faunas and floras on the one side, and marine faunas on the other, the geological age indicated by the latter is probably correct, because the contradictions which prevail between the evidence afforded by successive terrestrial and freshwater beds are unknown in marine deposits; because the succession of terrestrial animals and plants in time has been different from the succession of marine life; and because in all past times the differences between the faunas of distant lands have probably been, as they now are, vastly greater than the differences between the animals and plants inhabiting the different seas and oceans."²⁴

Notwithstanding such exceptions, it may be asserted that in every country where the fossiliferous geological formations are well displayed and have been properly examined, a similar general order of organic succession can be made out among them. Their relative age within a limited geographical area can be demonstrated by the law of superposition. When, however, the rocks of distant

²⁴ Mr. Blanford, in his suggestive address to the Geological Section of the British Association at the Montreal meeting, from which the above quotation is taken, gives some examples of the contradictions involved in attempts to correlate distant deposits by means of land and freshwater faunas and floras. The Damuda beds of India, as he points out, contain a flora with middle Jurassic affinities, but the fauna of the overlying Panchet beds is rather Triassic or even Permian. Still more striking is the example furnished by the Lower Coal-measures of New South Wales, where plants which botanists unhesitatingly pronounced to be of Jurassic types are found in the same stratified deposits with undoubted Carboniferous Limestone marine organisms (*Orthoceras*, *Conularia*, *Spirifer*, *Fenestella*, etc.) Mr. Blanford has returned to this subject in his presidential addresses to the Geological Society. *Quart. Journ.* xlv. 1889, p. 72, xlv. 1890, p. 104.