

TEXT-BOOK OF GEOLOGY

BOOK VI

STRATIGRAPHICAL GEOLOGY

(CONTINUED)

PART III. MESOZOIC OR SECONDARY

THOUGH no geologist now admits the abrupt lines of division which were at one time believed to mark off the limits of geological systems and to bear witness to the great terrestrial revolutions by which these systems were supposed to have been terminated, nevertheless the influence of the ideas which gave life to these banished beliefs is by no means extinct. The threefold division of the stratified rocks of the terrestrial crust into Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary, or, as they are now called, Palæozoic, Mesozoic, and Cainozoic, is a relic of those ideas. This threefold arrangement is retained, however, not because each of these great periods of geological time is thought to have been separated by any marked geological or geographical episode from the period which preceded or that which followed it, but because, classification and subdivision being necessary in the acquisition of knowledge, this grouping of the earth's stratified formations into three great series is convenient. In our survey of the older members of these formations we have come to the end of the first series of fossiliferous systems, and are about to enter upon the con-

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