

And the following table, showing the number of foraminifera common to the Atlantic mud and various geological formations in England:—

Total in the deep Atlantic.	Common to the following Formations.							
	Crag.	London clay.	Chalk.	Upper Jurassic.	Lower Jurassic.	Rhætic and Upper Trias.	Per- mian.	Carbo- niferous.
110	53	28	19	7	7	7	1	1

The morphology of the foraminifera has been studied with great care, and the differences between closely allied so-called species are so slight that it is possible that in many cases they should only be regarded as varieties; but this careful criticism and appreciation of minute differences renders it all the more likely that the determinations are correct, and that animal forms which are substantially identical have persisted in the depths of the sea during a considerable lapse of geological time.

In the late deep-sea dredgings by M. de Pourtales off the American coast, and by H.M. ships 'Lightning' and 'Porcupine,' and Mr. Marshall Hall's yacht 'Norna' off the west coast of Europe, no animal forms have been discovered belonging to any of the higher groups, so far as we are as yet aware, specifically identical with chalk fossils; and I do not think that we have any right to expect that such will be found. To a depth of 5,000 feet or so a large portion of the North Atlantic is at present heated very considerably above its normal temperature, while the Arctic and Antarctic indraught depresses the bottom