

examine and report on the geology, agriculture and archæology of the southern portion of the state. Dr. Clark gives a geological section across the state from the highlands of the Piedmont Plateau to the Atlantic coast, the various deposits being classified as follows;—

	}	Recent.
Cenozoic.		Pleistocene.
		Neocene.
		Eocene.
Mesozoic.	}	Cretaceous.
		Potomac.

The marked influence of the underlying formations on the soils of the country, described in this paper, is of especial interest as well as great practical importance. Referring to this Prof. Whitney, of the State Agricultural College, writes as follows. "The soils of each formation are so very characteristic and so uniform throughout that there will be little trouble in establishing the following soil types and showing the difference in the physical condition and properties in their relation to plant growth: 1, Neocene, forming the wheat and tobacco lands; 2, Eocene, the fruit and truck lands; 3, Columbia (Pleistocene), the fertile river terraces; 4, Appomatox (Pliocene?), the pine barrens; 5, Cretaceous. Mr. W. H. Holmes gives a brief description of the Kitchen-middens or great shell heaps marking the sites of ancient Indian villages or resorts at many points and some of which rank both as to mass and horizontal extent with some of the minor sub-divisions of the geological formations. A single one of these situated at the mouth of Pope's Creek is about half a mile long and 100 yards wide, the shells in many places being heaped up to a depth of ten feet. This great shell heap overlies the miccene beds of this locality, not only in the valley of the creek, but on the slopes and summits of the hills on either side and contains in addition to the shells a great many Indian remains. About 200,000 cubic feet of these shells have been burnt into lime for fertilizing purpose. This amount, however, constituting but a very insignificant proportion of the whole.

The "oyster question" evidently attracted as much attention in Maryland in those early times as it does at present.

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