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THE SEDIMENTARY ROCKS

BY

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in the University of  
Cambridge*

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## PREFACE

I HAVE in this book endeavoured to give a general account of the conditions which have controlled the distribution of the various kinds of sedimentary deposits in time and space, taking into account also the features relating to their organic contents which are necessary to my purpose. I have avoided overloading the book with excess of detail. There are already many treatises devoted to the characters of the deposits. A succinct account will be found in Hatch and Rastall's *Petrology of the Sedimentary Rocks*, while a very full description has lately been published in the *American Treatise on Sedimentation* by W. H. Twenhofel. A large number of instances cited in illustration of various points are derived from the Lower Palæozoic rocks simply because I am more acquainted with these, as the result of actual study, than with those of later date.

It is my pleasant duty to acknowledge assistance received from many friends, especially among my own colleagues in the Sedgwick Museum; to H. Woods, F.R.S., and Dr G. L. Elles I owe help given in various ways; W. B. R. King has given me special assistance in many matters, including the drawing of the diagrams. I am above all indebted to Dr R. H. Rastall, without whose help the book could not have appeared, as it was written under disadvantages which but for him would have been insuperable. He copied out the

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PREFACE

whole MS. for me and at the same time criticised it and made most valuable suggestions: he has further increased my indebtedness by revising the proofs and compiling the index.

In addition to help from my colleagues I have had aid from F. A. Potts, M.A., while J. A. Steers, M.A., and W. F. Whittard, Ph.D., have furnished me with material which is acknowledged in the text.

J. E. M.

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