COMPARISON WITH AMERICAN FORMATIONS.

Before leaving the Mesozoic-Tertiary series there is another phase of the subject which deserves mention, because of its bearing on the world-relations of the continents. The existing physiographic features of this portion of Asia bear, as has been suggested, a certain resemblance to those of the southwestern portion of the United States, the so-called Basin Range and Plateau provinces. If the rock series and the geological events of the one country be compared with those of the other it is seen that while there is considerable difference in details, there is also a significant resemblance; hence the fundamental features of the past, as well as of the present, are similar. This is set forth in Table II, where American features which are the same as those of Asia are marked "Do." It is not meant to imply that the two series of features were identical in time, but merely in sequence. The similarity seems too great to be accidental; it may be that we have here the normal sequence for an interior desert basin. If this is so we ought to find the same general rock series in other desert regions, such as Arabia and parts of the Sahara, where similar conditions prevail.

TABLE II.—*Comparison table of the Mesozoic-Tertiary rock series and of geological events in the elevated arid regions of Asia and North America.*

	Asia.		North America.	
	Rocks.	Events.	Rocks.	Events.
1	Limestone and shale..	Paleozoic moraine deposition....	....Do	Do.
2	.....	Mountain-making and prolonged erosion.	Shales	Estuarine or playa deposition.
3	Conglomerate and sandstone.	Subaerial deposition. Land slowly sinking or stationary.	....Do.....	Do.
4	.....	.....	.....	Slight unconformity.
5	Clay shales and coal measures.	Estuarine or swamp conditions...	Blue marls.....	Estuarine conditions.
6	.....	Slight unconformity.....	.....	.....
7	Vermilion sandstone, cross-bedded.	Elevation and possibly desert conditions.	....Do.....	Do.
8	Limestone and gypsum.	Depression and return to moraine conditions.	White cross-bedded sandstone.	More rigorous desert conditions.
9	Marl and limestone..	Unstable marine conditions.....	Cretaceous coal measures.	Estuarine or swamp conditions.
10	Oyster limestone	Marine conditions.....	....Do.....	Do.
11	Red and pink beds...	Elevation and eventually a gradual return to subaerial conditions of depositions	....Do..... (Pink beds.)	Do.
12	Brown sandstone and conglomerate.	Complete return to subaerial deposition.	....Do	Do.