The aims and purposes of stratigraphy are best served by useful and adequate nomenclature. Murray and Wilbert (1950) summarized modern proposals concerning this problem of classification and description, and recommended the adoption of Jacksonian Stage for the varied lithologic facies deposited during the late Eocene invasion and withdrawal of the sea in the Gulf Coastal Plain region.

Of the various categories of stratigraphic units which have been proposed, the most concrete are rock units. The basic lithologic element is the formation, commonly combined with other formations into groups because of some physical similarity, and, if necessary or utilitarian, separated into members on the basis of some material difference. This concept of rock entities, unhampered by time restrictions, should not be mutilated by the indiscriminate application of rock-unit names as time terms.

One of the best known and most extensively discussed lithologic units in the Gulf Coast Tertiary is the “Vicksburg group.” This paper is an attempt to clarify certain troublesome aspects of the nomenclature of these deposits and of the sediments equivalent to the type exposures.

The deposits typically exposed at Vicksburg, Mississippi, (Conrad, 1846; Hilgard, 1860; Cooke, 1918, 1923, 1935, 1936; Mornhinweg and Garrett, 1935; Mellen, 1941; MacNeil, 1944; and others) consist of lithologically similar, but separately mappable, fossiliferous limestones, marls, or calcareous clays and sands overlain by carbonaceous, lenticularly fossiliferous blue-gray to brown clay and underlain by lignitic to carbonaceous, partly fossiliferous clay and sand. The lithologic units present are the following.

- Bucatunna clay
- Byram formation
  - Marl member
  - Glendon limestone member
- Marianna formation
  - Limestone member
  - Mint Springs member
- Forest Hill formation

1 Manuscript received, January 24, 1952.

The thoughts and ideas expressed, however, are those of the writer and any mistakes are his sole responsibility. Leo W. Hough, State geologist, Louisiana Geological Survey, kindly collected samples from the fine exposure of the Mosley Hill along U. S. Highway 171 near Sandel, Sabine Parish, Louisiana, and made photographs of the same outcrop.