

important examples of cones and craters are no doubt placed linearly on lines of fissure. It is by no means certain that the "massive" or fissure type belongs wholly to former geological periods. In particular, one is disposed to inquire whether the great Icelandic lava-floods of 1783—the most voluminous on record—as well as some of the recent eruptions in that island, may not have been connected rather with the opening of wide-reaching fissures than with the emissions of a single volcanic cone. The reality and importance of the grander phase of volcanism marked by fissure eruptions have been recognised by some of the able geologists who in recent years have explored the Western States and Territories of the American Union. But they have not yet received due acknowledgment on this side of the Atlantic, where the lesser type of cones and craters has been regarded as that by which all volcanic manifestations must be judged. We are fortunate in possessing in the north-west of Europe so magnificent an example of fissure-eruptions, and one which has been so dissected by denudation that its whole structure can be interpreted. The grand examples on the Pacific slope of America have yet to be worked out in detail, and will no doubt cast much fresh light on the subject, more especially upon those phenomena of which in Europe the traces have been removed by denudation. But the other continents also are not without their illustrations. The basaltic plateaux of Abyssinia and the "Deccan traps" of India probably mark the sites of some of the great fissure-eruptions which have produced the lava-fields of the Old World. In their recent admirable *résumé* of the *Geology of India*, Messrs. Medlicott and Blandford describe the persistent horizontality of the vast basalt sheets of the Deccan, the absence of any associated volcanic cones or the least trace