

The older view, that in the Northern Hemisphere, from the Caspian Sea to the American shores of the Pacific, folding-movements had been directed to the north, north-west, or north-east, is shown to be erroneous for the southern Apennines and other outrunners of the Alpine system, as well as for the coastal chains in North America. A special chapter is devoted to the work of Mojsisovics on the inthrown area of the "Dolomites" in South Tyrol, with which the origin of the Adriatic Sea is associated.

Another chapter is devoted to the geological history of the Mediterranean Sea, which he proves to be a remnant from a much greater ocean. He calls this ancient ocean "Thetys," and by an exhaustive discussion of the various Tertiary deposits demonstrates the former extent, boundaries, and phases of development of the original ocean of "Thetys." It extended across the Atlantic Ocean to the southern coasts of North America, and through Central Europe to the inner recesses of Central Asia. The fragmentation of the neighbouring continents, the recent inthrows of the Ægean and Black Seas, are described with admirable mastery of detail.

The following chapters treat the Sahara table-land, with its continuation towards Arabia and Palestine; the broad South African table-land, which formerly extended as "Gondwana Land" across Madagascar to Southern India and Australia and is bounded on all sides by a faulted coast; and lastly, the mountain-systems of India and Central Asia and their tectonical relations to the Alps and European mountains. Suess then proceeds to describe the leading features of America. In South America there is a certain unity of structure. In the east and in the middle the great Brazilian table-land is composed of little disturbed Palæozoic strata; in the west the folded mountain-chains are mostly composed of Jurassic rocks. Still younger strata occur near the Pacific coast, and the volcanoes and earthquakes of this area indicate the continuance of crust-disturbances in the present day.

Central America is interposed between North and South America with a structure geologically independent of either, and representing a part of the former land-girdle of the Thetys. In North America, the Appalachians, the Mountains of the West, and the intervening table-lands afford the author frequent opportunity of discussing the American literature on the origin of mountain-systems.