

it is apt to be swept away from time to time by violent floods. Sand, gravel, and bowlders, in those parts of a river-channel where the current is strong enough to keep them moving along, rub down the rocky bottom over which they are driven. As the shape and declivity of the channel vary constantly from point to point, with, at the same time, frequent changes in the nature of the rocks, this erosive ac-



Fig. 115.—Rocky river-channel with old Pot-holes.

tion is liable to continual modifications. It advances most briskly in the numerous hollows and grooves along which chiefly these loose materials travel. Wherever an eddy occurs in which gravel is kept in gyration, erosion is much increased. The stones, in their movement, excavate a hole in the channel, while, as they themselves are reduced to sand and mud, or are swept out by the force of the current, their places are taken by fresh stones brought down by the