

estuary, and the scour of the river and ebb-tide which endeavors to keep the passage open.

Another remarkable illustration of the contest between alluvium-carrying streams and the land-eroding ocean is shown by the vast lines of bar or bank which stretch along the coasts both of the Old and the New World. The streams do not flow straight into the sea, but run sometimes for many miles parallel to the shore-line, accumulating behind the



Fig. 134.—Section of bar and lagoon. Slapton Pool, Start Bay, Devon (B.).

barriers into broad and long lagoons, but eventually breaking through the barriers of alluvium and entering the sea. On a small scale, examples occur on the coasts of the British Islands, as at Start Bay, Devon (Fig. 134), where the slates (e) with their weathered surface (d) are flanked by a fresh-water lake (c), ponded back by a bar (b) from the sea (a). The lagoons of the shores of the Mediterranean,¹⁷⁶ and the

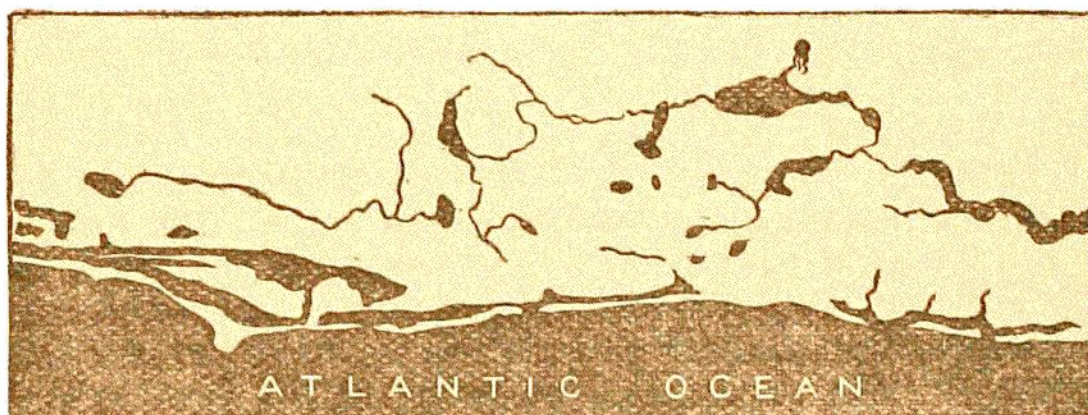


Fig. 135.—Plan of coast-bars and lagoons. Coast of Florida.

Kurische and Frische Haf in the Baltic, near Dantzic, are familiar examples. A conspicuous series of these alluvial bars fronts the American mainland for many hundred miles round the Gulf of Mexico and the shores of Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina (Fig. 135).¹⁷⁷ A space of several hundred miles on the east coast of India is similarly bordered. Élie de Beaumont, indeed, estimated that about

¹⁷⁶ For an account of these see Ansted, *Min. Proc. Inst. Civ. Engin.* xxviii., 1869, p. 287.

¹⁷⁷ See Report by H. D. Rogers, *Brit. Assoc.* iii. p. 13.