

quiescence. One fault sometimes displaces another. In regions of reversed faults and thrust-planes, normal faults have sometimes taken place long after the first dislocations. In northwestern Scotland, for example, the thrust-planes have been cut across and shifted, exactly as if they had been ordinary stratification-planes.

Detection and tracing of Faults.—As a rule, faults give rise to little or no feature at the surface, so that their existence would commonly not be suspected. They comparatively rarely appear in visible sections, but are apt rather to conceal themselves under surface accumulations just at

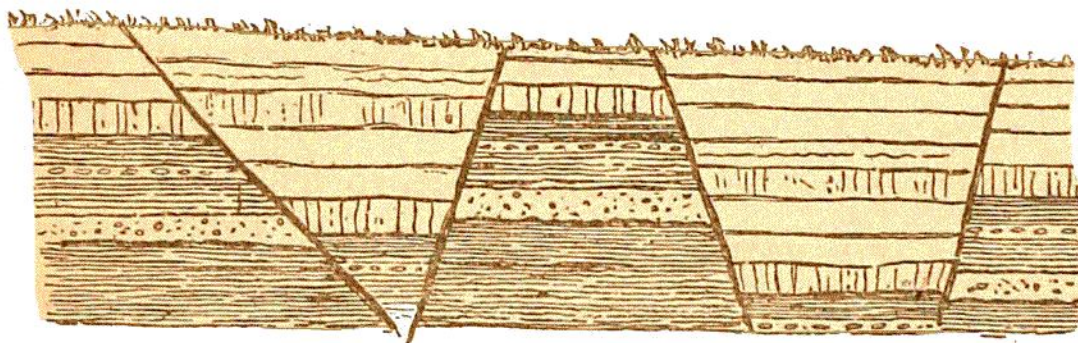


Fig. 274.—Trough-Faults.

those points in a ravine or other natural section where we might hope to catch them. Yet they undoubtedly constitute one of the most important features in the geological structure of a district or country, and should consequently be traced with the greatest care. In the majority of cases, in countries like much of central and northern Europe, where the ground is covered with superficial deposits, the position of faults cannot be seen, but must be inferred; though it must be admitted that geologists have been prone to great recklessness in this respect, introducing faults for which there was little or no actual evidence, but which were convenient for the explanation of theoretical views of the structure of a district. Experience will teach the student