

barrier across the channel of a stream and the consequent ponding back of the water. This may be done, for instance, by a landslip, by a lava-stream, by the advance of a glacier across a valley, or by the throwing up of a bank by the sea across the mouth of a river. 4. By erosion. Water keeping stones in gyration can dig out pot-holes in the bed of a river, or on the sea-shore. Unequal subaerial weathering may cause rocks to rot much more deeply in some places than in others, so that, on the removal of the rotted material, the surface of the solid rock might be full of depressions. But the only known agent capable of excavating such hollows as might form rock-basin lakes is glacier-ice (p. 719). It is a remarkable fact, of which the significance may now be seen, that the innumerable lake-basins of the northern hemisphere lie on surfaces of intensely ice-worn rock. The striæ can be seen on the smoothed rock-surfaces slipping into the water on all sides. These striæ were produced by ice moving over the rock. If the ice could, as the striæ prove, descend into the rock-basins and mount up the further side, smoothing and striating the rock as it went, it could, to a certain depth at least, erode basins.

In the general subaerial denudation of a country, innumerable minor features are worked out as the structure of the rocks controls the operations of the eroding agents. Thus, among undisturbed or gently inclined strata, a hard bed resting upon others of a softer kind is apt to form along its outcrop a line of cliff or escarpment. Though a long range of such cliffs resembles a coast that has been worn by the sea, it may be entirely due to mere atmospheric waste. Again, the more resisting portions of a rock may be seen projecting as crags or knolls. An igneous mass will