

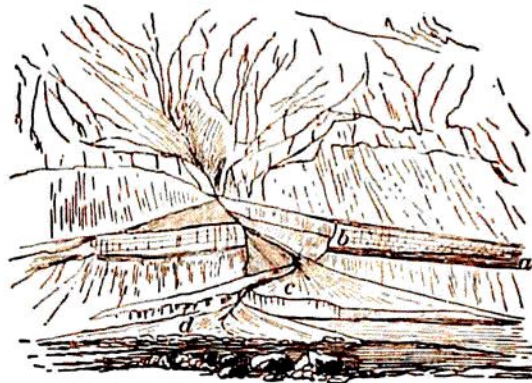
The torrential stream in its flood-time cuts channels through the cone that later quiet depositions fill up. In Fig. 182 a cone is encroached upon (near *d*) by the river. Alluvial cones, of great size and low angle, occur at the base of the mountains in the Great Basin and in some other parts of the Rocky Mountain region, and have been described by Gilbert (1877-1890), Dutton (1880),

181.



Alluvial cone or fan-talus of upper Indus Basin.

182.

Triple alluvial cone, *ibid.* Drew.

and I. C. Russell (1885). The gravelly deposits of this kind at the mouth of tributaries in the Connecticut valley and elsewhere were called deltas by E. Hitchcock, and the terraces over the surface either side of the stream, delta-terraces.

2. *Læss.* — The terrace-like deposits along portions of the valleys of the Rhine, Danube, and Mississippi consist of loamy earth called *læss*, which is peculiar in its absence of stratification, and often also in its vertical surfaces of fracture. They have remarkable extent along the Hoang Ho in China. The accompanying sketch, from Richthofen's great work on China (1877), shows its usual landscape features. Erosion reduces portions of its margin to a collection of towers, peaks, and deep and narrow labyrinthine passages; and human contrivance makes dwelling-places by excavation. The thickness is stated to be in some places 2000 to 2500 feet. The material is a brownish yellow earth, containing land-shells and calcareous concretions. It occurs at several different levels along the river, 100 to 250 feet within 175 miles of the sea; next, beyond a region of mountains, 1800 to 3500 feet; after passing another mountain region, 4500 to 5800 feet; and it is stated to extend to the most western sources of the river over 900 miles from the coast. The river at these levels, as in other cases of *læss* deposition, was probably lake-like. Long-sustained floods of the rivers in the mountains from melting glaciers are one explanation of the source of the material. Eolian drifting of dust from the salt-steppes of Siberia is Baron von Richthofen's theory, which the absence of a wind-drift structure renders improbable.

Deposits occur in the Great Basin resembling the *læss* in absence of stratification and other characters, which are called *adobe* by Mr. I. C. Russell, from the name for sun-burnt brick, because this material is used for making the brick. It has usually a yellowish color, and is more or less calcareous. It is described as a result of the wash