progression until the whole mass has become crystalline, and forms what is known as a schist.

The Crystalline Schists, properly so called, constitute a well-defined series of rocks. They are mainly composed of silicates. Their structure is crystalline, but is distinguished from that of the Massive or Eruptive rocks by its more or less closely parallel layers or folia, consisting of

Fig. 35.—Profile of a piece of Gneiss, showing the lenticular character of its folia, natural size. (B. N. Peach.)

materials which have assumed a crystalline character along these layers. The folia may be composed of only one mineral, but usually consist of two or more, which occur either in distinct, often alternate laminæ, or intermingled in the same layer. This structure resembles that of the stratified rocks, but it is differentiated (1) by a prevalent striking want of continuity in the folia, which, as a rule, are conspicuously lenticular, thickening out and then dying away,