

weathers into forms that resemble ruined walls. Large slabs, each defined by joint planes, weather out one above another

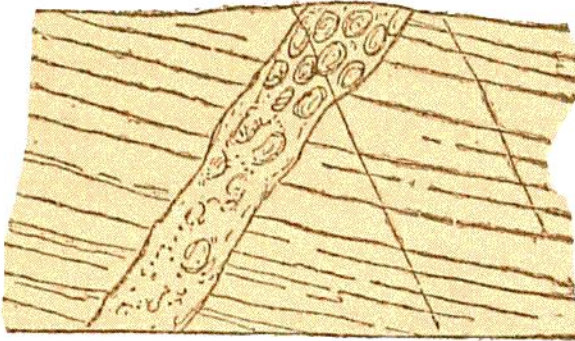


Fig. 95.—Felsite Dike weathering into spheroids, Cornwall (B.).

like tiers of masonry (Fig. 98), until, loosened by disintegration, they slip off and expose lower parts of the rock to the same influences. Here and there, a separate block becomes so poised that it may be readily moved to and fro by the

hand, as in the so-called "rocking-stones" of granite districts. As the disintegration varies with local differences in durability, some portions weather into cavities, others into

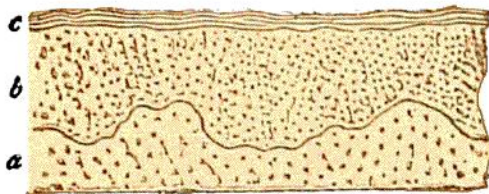


Fig. 96.—Decomposition of Granite. *a*, Solid granite; *b*, decomposed granite; *c*, vegetable soil.

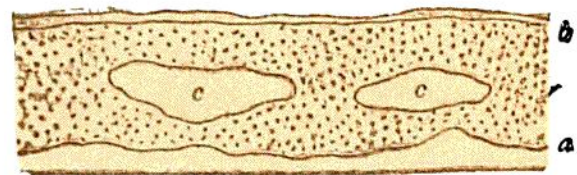


Fig. 97.—Decomposition of Granite. *a*, Solid granite; *b*, decomposed granite; *c*, *c*, kernels of still undecomposed granite.

prominences, often with a singularly artificial appearance, as in the "rock basins" (Fig. 99) and "tors" (Fig. 98) of the southwest of England. The ruin-like weathering of dolo-



Fig. 98.—Weathering of Granite along its joints (B.).

mite gives rise in the Cevennes to some singularly picturesque scenery.

To the influence of weathering, many of the most familiar minor contours of the land may be traced. So characteristic