

of the earth's crust. The foldings, however, can often be distinctly seen on cliffs, coast-lines, or other exposures of rock (Fig. 242). The observer cannot long continue his researches in the field without discovering that the strata composing the earth's outer crust have been almost everywhere thrown into curves, usually so broad and gentle as to escape observation except when specially looked for.

If the inclination and curvature of rocks are so closely

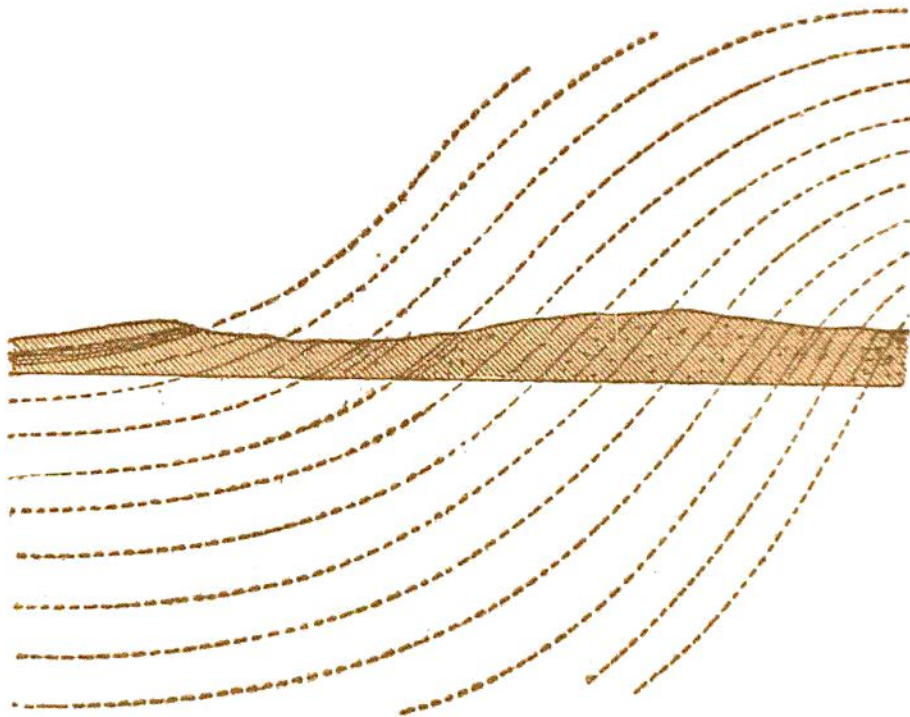


Fig. 241.—Section of inclined strata, as in Fig. 240, showing that they form part of a large curve.

connected, a corresponding relation must hold between their strike and curvature. In fact, the prevalent strike of a region is determined by the direction of the axes of the great folds into which the rocks have been thrown. If the curves are gentle and inconstant, there will be a corresponding variation in the strike. But should the rocks be strongly plicated, there will necessarily be the most thorough coincidence between the strike and the direction of the plication.