

yet viscous mass (pp. 181, 388). Some kinds of rock, when occurring in interbedded sheets, are apt to assume a system of columnar jointing. Basalt, in particular, is distinguished by the frequency and perfection of its columns. The Giants' Causeway, the cliffs of Staffa, of Ardtun in Mull, and of Loch Staffin in Skye, the Orgues d'Expailly in Auvergne, and the Kirschberg of Fulda are well-known examples.

Interbedded lavas of former geological periods, like those



Fig. 302.—Sandstone filling rents in the surface of an interbedded sheet or flow of porphyrite, which is covered with a bed of conglomerate. Coast of Kincardineshire.

The rents have been filled in with sand before the eruption of the next flow.

of recent date (ante, p. 408), occur under two tolerably well-defined conditions.

1. Lenticular sheets or groups of sheets, usually of limited extent and with associated bands of tuff, form the more frequent type among Palæozoic and Secondary formations. A single interbedded sheet may occasionally be found intercalated between ordinary sedimentary strata, without any other volcanic accompaniment. But this is unusual. In the great majority of cases, several sheets occur together, with accompanying bands of contemporaneous tuff.