

to descend. Sometimes veins are themselves faulted and crossed by other veins. Like ordinary faults, also, they are apt to split up at their terminations. These features are well exhibited in some of the mining districts of Cornwall (Fig. 317).

The intersections of mineral-veins do not always at once

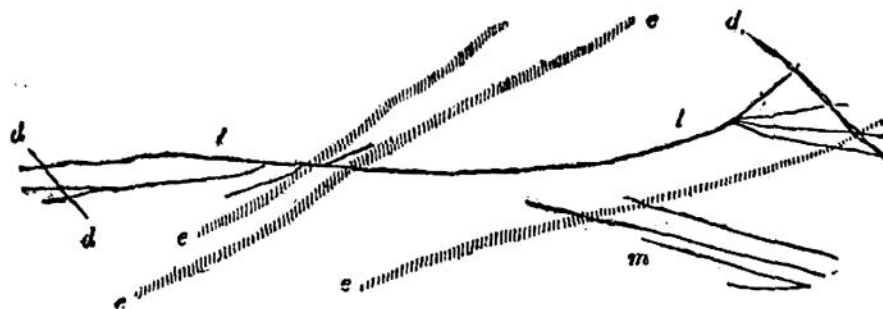


Fig. 317.—Plan of Wheal Fortune Lode, Cornwall (B.).

m, lodes of which the main one splits up toward east and west, traversing elvan dikes, *e e*, but cut by faults or cross-courses, *d d*. Scale one inch to a mile.

betray which is the older series. If a vein has really been shifted by another, it must of course be older than the latter. But the evidence of displacement may be deceptive. In such a section as that in Fig. 318, for example, a cursory examination might suggest the inference that the vein *d e* must be later than the dike or vein *a b*, by which its course appears to have been shifted. Should more careful scrutiny, however, lead to the detection of the vein crossing *d* the supposed later mass at *c*, it would be clear that this inference must be incorrect.⁵ In mineral districts, different

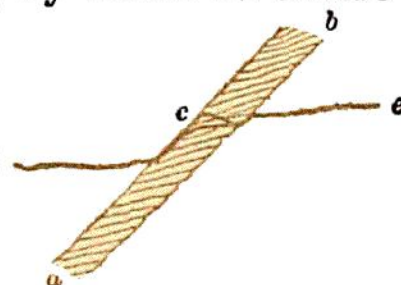


Fig. 318.—Deceptive shifting of a vein (B.).

series or systems of mineral-veins can generally be traced, one crossing another, belonging to different periods, and not infrequently filled with different ores and vein-stones. In the southwest of England, for example, a series of fissures run-

⁵ De la Beche, *op. cit.* p. 657.