

gravel to which the name of "Kame group" has been given. Covering the lower ground in a sporadic manner, often tolerably thick on the plains, these deposits rise up to heights of 1000 feet or more. In some places, they cannot be satisfactorily separated from the sands and gravels associated with the boulder-clay, in others they seem to merge into the sandy deposits of the raised beaches, while in hilly tracts it is sometimes hard to distinguish between them and true moraine-stuff. Their most remarkable mode of occurrence is when they assume the form of mounds and ridges, which run across valleys and plains, along hillsides, and even over water-sheds. Frequently these ridges coalesce so as to inclose basin-shaped hollows, which are often occupied by tarns. Many of the most marked ridges are not more than 50 or 60 feet in diameter, sloping up to the crest, which may be 20 or 30 feet above the plain. A single ridge may occasionally be traced in a slightly sinuous course for many miles, as in the case of the famous mound which runs across the centre of Ireland. These ridges, known in Scotland as Kames, in Ireland as Eskers, and in Scandinavia as Oesar, consist sometimes of coarse gravel or earthy detritus, but more usually of clean, well-stratified sand and gravel, the stratification toward the surface corresponding with the external slopes of the ground, in such a manner as to prove that the ridges are usually original forms of deposit, rather than the result of the irregular erosion of a general bed of sand and gravel. Some writers have compared these features to the submarine banks formed in the pathway of tidal currents near the shore. But they appear rather to be of terrestrial origin, due in some way to the melting of the great snow-fields and glaciers, and the consequent discharge of large quantities of water over the country. But no very