

areas of the earth's surface, named by him "Horsts," which seem to have served this purpose in the general rupture and subsidence of the terrestrial crust.

Considered with reference to their mode of production, the leading contours of a land-surface may be grouped as follows: 1. Those which are due more or less directly to disturbance of the crust. 2. Those which have been formed by volcanic action. 3. Those which are the result of denudation.⁵

1. **Terrestrial Features due more or less directly to Disturbance of the Crust.**—In some regions, large areas of stratified rocks have been raised up with so little trace of curvature that they seem to the eye to extend in horizontal sheets as wide plains or table-lands. If, however, these areas can be followed sufficiently far, the flat strata are eventually found to curve down slowly or rapidly, or to be truncated by dislocations. In an elevated region of this kind, the general level of the ground corresponds, on the whole, with the planes of stratification of the rocks. Vast regions of Western America, where Cretaceous and later strata extend in nearly horizontal sheets for thousands of square miles at heights of 4000 feet or more above the sea, may be taken as illustrations of this structure.

As a rule, curvature is more or less distinctly traceable in every region of uplifted rocks. Various types of flexure may be noticed, of which the following are some of the more important:

(a) *Monoclinical Flexures* (p. 896).—These occur most markedly in broad plateau-regions and on the flanks of large broad uplifts, as in the table-lands of Utah, Wyo-

⁵ For a sketch of the physiography of the British Isles see *Nature*, xxix. 1884, pp. 325, 347, 396, 419, 442.