Roquefort, situated about two leagues from Saint Affrique (in the department of the Aveyron), owe their special qualities for the manufacture of the famous Roquefort cheese to a continuous cold-air current which traverses the subterranean grottoes of the mountain.

All these phenomena may be explained by the existence of correspondent orifices, situated at higher levels than the ordinary entrances; these create and maintain fresh currents of air, so long as the external and internal atmospheres are not in equilibrium—that is, do not enjoy the same degree of temperature; a law of nature which we have already discussed when speaking of the air-currents that escape from beneath the glaciers.

When any local accident has broken up or swept away the roof of a cavern or grotto, the cavity, ordinarily closed in, is then changed into a *gulf* or *chasm*.

In many of these abysses copious streams of water lose themselves. They are not uncommon in the Jura, and, according to all appearance, communicate with extensive caverns. Numerous remarkable examples may be found in Greece. In each enclosed basin of that classic land, there exists one or more deep cavities into which the lakes and "wild waters" disgorge themselves, that otherwise, if they spread over the argillaceous soil, would commit great havoc among the crops. These apertures which absorb the superfluity of the surface waters were called by the Greeks *chasma* (χασμα); they are now known as *katavothra*. In general they are situated at the foot of the mountains which encircle the basin or valley.*

* P. de Boblaye, "Expédition Scientifique de Morée," tome ii., 2e partie.