

ground journey. Such is the origin of the brown ochry scum of iron-oxide that gathers upon the stones and grass washed by the outflow from a chalybeate spring. Such, too, is the white crust of carbonate of lime which hardens round the objects that lie in the pathway of one of the so-called 'petrifying springs' of calcareous districts. In some places, the material thus removed and deposited accumulates in masses that are large enough to form a distinct feature in the landscape. But nothing of that magnitude is to be found in Scotland. The deposit of white travertine from calcareous springs takes place there only on a small scale, as at the well-known Starley Burn, on the coast of Fife, between Aberdour and Burntisland.

Of far more importance in the general sculpture of the land, when the rocks, as in Scotland, are not generally calcareous, is the mechanical action of underground water. Filtering through the interstices and joints of rocks, loosening the cohesion of particles and removing them, and above all lubricating the divisional surfaces and enabling these, in favourable positions, to slide over each other, underground water tells powerfully on the breaking up of the rocks of steep banks and precipices. The most striking Scottish examples of this process are furnished by the cliffs of boulder-clay so abundant among the stream-courses of the lowlands. After wet weather, large semicircular portions of these 'scaurs' may be seen to have slipt half way down, carrying with them on their tops portions of the meadow above. Their lower slopes reveal the cause of dislodgment, in the streams of pasty mud that ooze out towards the water-course. Such landslips are continually occurring, because the disrupted material, instead of being allowed to accumulate as a protection against the face of the cliff, is broken up by the weather and swept away by the stream.