

into deep hollows and clefts where they had been depressed and fractured. But the most cursory examination suffices to show that between the outer forms of the surface and the inner grouping of the rocks there is no such relationship. Everywhere we see the abraded edges of the strata of schist running along and across the hill-tops. The arches into which the rocks have been folded have been worn deeply down. The faults which have dislocated and depressed them have been so levelled off that their position can often only be determined by laborious search. In short, no fact in Scottish geology can be more abundantly demonstrated than that a vast thickness of rock has been denuded from the general surface of the Highlands since the rocks were broken, plicated, and metamorphosed.

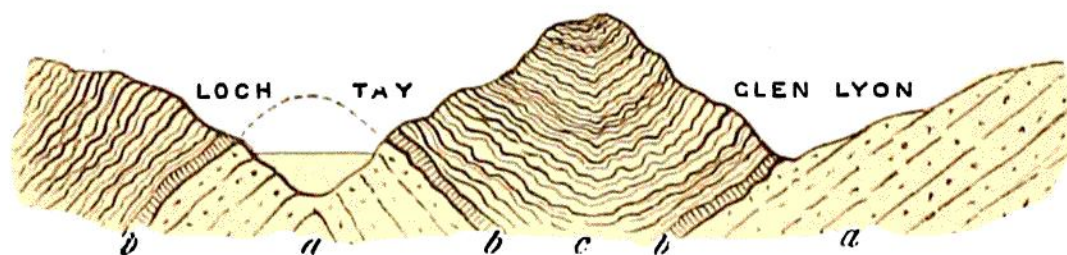


FIG. 26.—Diagrammatic section of Ben Lawers.  
*a*, Quartzose rocks. *b*, Limestone. *c*, Schistose rocks.

One of the most impressive proofs of this want of dependence of external configuration upon internal structure is furnished by the frequent troughs and arches, or *synclines* and *anticlines* into which the schists have been folded. It might have been expected that the arches should form lines of elevated ridge, and the troughs lines of glen or strath. But where any relationship between the geological and topographical features exists, it is commonly just the reverse of this. The basins or troughs rise into rugged and lofty mountains, while the arches are occupied by deep valleys. A striking example of this feature is to be found in Ben Lawers (3984 feet). That wide-based broad-