

east of the Nith [287]. This area can be easily reached from Edinburgh, or it can be visited by halting at Hawick or Beattock on the way north.

Taking the excursion from Edinburgh, the most convenient route is by Peebles, Innerleithen, Yarrow, and Moffatdale. For the first few miles the railway to Peebles traverses the Midlothian coal-field. Most of the cuttings along the line are in the thick covering of boulder-clay, sand and gravel which overspreads this plain. For the most part the solid rocks are only visible in the water-courses where the overlying cover of drift has been cut through. The best view of the Pentland Hills is to be obtained from this line of railway, particularly from about **Leadburn** Station, whence the contrast between the smooth outlines of the conglomerate hills at the southern end [358], and the more pointed forms of the volcanic hills farther north, already referred to, is well seen. Far to the south, beyond the conglomerate, the prominent conical hill Mendick marks the beginning of another volcanic belt of Lower Old Red Sandstone age, which swells out to a great thickness in Lanarkshire and Ayrshire.

Immediately beyond Leadburn Junction, the line of railway crosses the boundary fault, and enters the Southern Uplands. At first the ground is low and is covered with accumulations of sand and gravel arranged in kames [369], with little peaty hollows between them where small lakes once existed. The rock ridges hereabouts have been ground smooth by ice moving in a north-easterly direction. Keeping to the valley of the Eddleston Water the railway runs obliquely across the strike of the Silurian greywacke and shale, which, though for the most part covered with boulder-clay along the lower parts of the slopes, come to the surface along the tops of the ridges on either side. The Eddleston Water, it will be observed, rises almost at the very edge of the uplands, and flows southward across them, joining the Tweed at Peebles.

Peebles may be made a convenient centre for the exploration of the most interesting parts of the eastern half of the Southern Uplands. A line of railway follows the valley of the Tweed for many miles in both directions, and its slow trains and frequent stations allow the scenery to be leisurely studied. In the immediate neighbourhood the most profitable excursion is to the top of Cademuir, a hill 1359 feet high, lying to the