

Under Buckland's term of "denudation," geology at the present day signifies that process which, if continued far enough, would reduce all surface irregularities of the globe to a uniform base-level, but the general term makes no premisses about the particular agencies affecting the removal of surface material. The chief qualifying terms in common use at the present time are "subaerial," "marine," and "submarine." *Subaerial denudation* practically comprises all the natural operations by which land-areas can be lowered; it includes the action of wind, of running water, and of ice. *Marine denudation*, so far as it affects land-areas, is limited to a narrow marginal belt. *Submarine denudation* is used to signify the wearing or scouring action of the water, or any chemical processes affecting the floor of the ocean.

Hand in hand with the advance of scientific thought regarding the causes and effects of recent denudation, there developed among geologists a clearer apprehension of the evidences of denudation in the past. In the beginning of the nineteenth century, Berzelius and Hisinger had suggested that the sedimentary series (Silurian) present in West Gothland might be only remnants of a much wider sheet of deposit which had been for the most part washed away. An important step in advance was made by Sir Andrew Ramsay in his work *On the Denudation of South Wales* (1846). Ramsay showed that the Palæozoic sedimentary strata of Cornwall and South Wales were composed of fragments derived from older rock-material, that therefore this district had suffered immense loss by denudation in very early geological epochs.

Emmrich in 1873 had drawn attention to the evidences of transportation of Triassic rocks in Southern Thuringia, and in 1880 Bücking made an approximate estimate of the amount of denudation, calculated from the thickness and extent of the derived deposits. The researches of Pomel and Zittel in the Libyan Desert and the Algerian Sahara, with their numerous isolated hills, proved that this area had been denuded on a scale of remarkable magnitude, probably by subaerial agencies during the Pliocene and Diluvial periods. Dutton's famous work on the Grand Cañon showed that the extensive denudation of the Colorado lands had been likewise accomplished within comparatively recent geological epochs.

Neumayr, who made in 1885 a special investigation of the original distribution and extent of the Jurassic formation,