By prolonged abstraction of this nature, subterranean tunnels, channels, and caverns have been formed. In regions abounding in rock-salt deposits, the result of the solution and removal of these by underground water is visible in local sinkings of the ground and the consequent formation of pools and lakes. The landslips and meres of Cheshire are illustrations of this process. In that county, owing to the pumping out of the brine in the manufacture of salt, tracts of ground sometimes more than 100 acres in extent have sunk down and become the sites of lakes of varying depth,

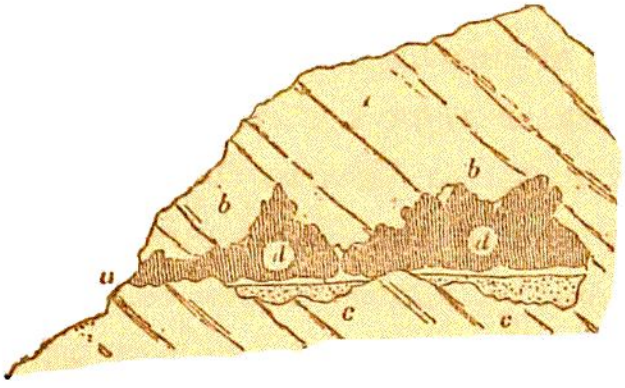

Fig. 109.—Section of a Limestone Cavern (*B.*).

l l, A limestone hill, perforated by a cavern (*b b*) which communicates with the valley (*c*) by an opening (*a*). The bottom of the cavern is covered with ossiferous loam, above which lies a layer of stalagmite (*d d*), while stalactites hang from the roof, and by joining the floor separate the cavern into two chambers.

some being 45 feet deep.[98] In calcareous districts, still more striking effects are observable. The ground may there be found drilled with vertical cavities (*swallow-holes*, *sinks*, *dolinas*), by the solution of the rock along lines of joint or of faults that serve as channels for descending rain-water. The line of outcrop of a limestone-band, among non-calcareous strata, may often be traced, even under a covering of superficial deposits, by its row of swallow-holes. Surface-drainage, thus intercepted, passes at once underground, where, in course of time, an elaborate system of spacious

[98] T. Ward, "History and Cause of the subsidences at Northwich," etc., 1887, Geol. Mag. 1887, p. 517.