gas from decomposing organic matter in the original sand or mud, as we may sometimes witness in operation among the mud-flats of rivers and estuaries, where much organic matter is decomposing among the sediment. On a small scale, these protrusions of the upper surface of a deposit may be compared with the mud-lumps at the mouths of the Mississippi, already described (p. 674).

Concretions.—Many sedimentary rocks, more particularly clays, ironstones, and limestones, exhibit a concretionary structure. This arrangement may be part of the original

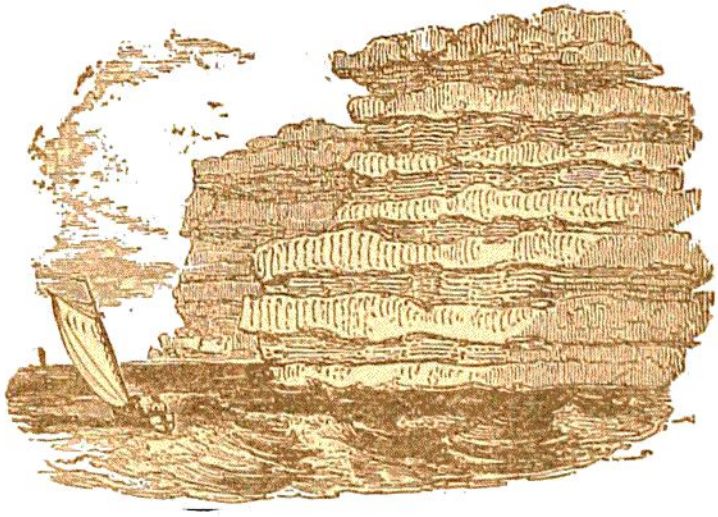

Fig. 210.—Section of alternations of shale and concretionary limestone (*B.*).

sedimentation, or may be due to subsequent segregation from decomposition round a centre. Concretionary structures of contemporaneous origin, particularly in calcareous materials, may lie so closely adjacent as to form continuous or nearly continuous beds (Fig. 210). The Magnesian Limestone of Durham is built up of variously shaped concretionary masses, sometimes like cannon-balls, grape-shot, or bunches of coral. Connected with concretionary beds are the seams of gypsum, which may occasionally be observed to send out veins into other gypsum beds above and below them. De la Beche describes a section at Watchet, Somersetshire, where, amid the Triassic marls (*b b* in Fig. 211),