

A few of the more important features of the land may be briefly noticed here in their relation to this branch of geology. In the physiography of any region, mountains are the dominant features (p. 78). A true mountain-chain consists of rocks that have been crumpled and pushed up in the manner already described. But ranges of hills, almost mountainous in their bulk, may be formed by the gradual erosion of valleys out of a mass of original high ground. In this way, some ancient table-lands have been so channelled that they now consist of massive rugged hills, either isolated or connected along the flanks. Eminences detached by erosion from the masses of rock whereof they once formed a part have been termed *hills of circumdenudation*. Their isolation may either be due to the action of streams working round them, apart altogether from geological structure, or to their more resisting constitution, which has enabled them to remain prominent during the general degradation of the whole surface.

Table-lands (p. 83) may sometimes arise from the abrasion of hard rocks and the production of a level plain by the action of the sea, or rather of that action combined with the previous degradation of the land by subaerial waste (p. 789). Such a form of surface may be termed a *table-land of erosion*. Notable examples are to be seen in the extensive "fjelds" or elevated plateaus of Scandinavia, many of which, rising above the snow-line, form the gathering-ground of glaciers that descend almost to the sea-level. Fragments of a similar table-land may be recognized among the Grampian Mountains of Scotland. But most of the great table-lands of the globe seem to be platforms of little disturbed strata, either sedimentary or volcanic, which have been upraised bodily to a considerable elevation. These