

depressions between adjoining mountains. The continued degradation of a crest may obviously give rise to a pass.

Lakes may have been formed in several ways. 1. By subterranean movements, as, for example, in mountain-making and in volcanic explosions. The subsidence of the central part of a mountain system might conceivably depress the heads of the valleys below the level of portions further from the sources of the stream. Or the elevation of the lower parts of the valleys might cause an accumulation of water in their upper parts. Or each lake-basin might be supposed to be due to a special subsidence. But these hollows, unless continually deepened by subsequent movements of a similar nature, would be filled up by the sediment continually washed into them from the adjoining slopes. The numerous lakes in such a mountain system as the Alps cannot be due merely to subterranean movements, unless we suppose the upheaval of the mountains to have been quite recent, or that subsidence must take place continuously or periodically below each independent basin. But there is evidence that the Alpine uplift is not of such recent date, while the idea of perpetuating lakes by continued local subsidence would demand, not in the Alps merely, but all over the northern hemisphere, where lakes are so abundant, an amount of subterranean movement of which, if it really existed, there would assuredly be plenty of other evidence. 2. By irregularities in the deposition of superficial accumulations prior to the elevation of the land, or, in the northern parts of Europe and America, during the disappearance of the ice-sheet. The numerous tarns and lakes inclosed within mounds and ridges of drift-clay and gravel are examples. 3. By the accumulation of a