THE NORTHERN CORDILLERAN

which this dissection of the mountain area has been carried can be obtained on a fine morning from the ridge which forms the back of the Eastern Lion. As the minutes pass hetween dawn and sunrise, the sea of mountains which lies to the north-east is gradually disclosed in row after row of peaks, their succession being clearly shown in the cold silvery light, only to be lost in a moment when the sun's limb peeps above the horizon.

The Coast Range helongs neither to the oldest nor the youngest of mountain groups. Its uprise does not go back a tenth of the way towards the time when the stratified rocks began to be laid down. Compared with the Scottish Highlands or the mountains in the southwest of Ireland, it is a thing of the day hefore yesterday. But it is very decidedly older than the Alps or the Himalayas.

PLUTONIC ROCKS

That completely crystalline structure which is not too fine to be detected at a glance hy the naked eye, to which the term granitoid is applied, is hy no means limited to the true granites. The Coast Range presents us with quite a series of rocks which have solidified under pressure from a great thickness of overlying material, and which are therefore known as *plutonic*. At one end of the series are the true granites, which are marked by the presence of quartz as a distinct mineral in tolerable quantity. Next come the diorites, in which the amount of crystalline quartz has fallen nearly or completely to zero, while the minerals which accompany the quartz in granite are partially exchanged for others. Gabbro is found at the other end of the series. The quartz has disappeared completely, while the rock is heavily loaded with iron and magnesia, to which gabbro is indebted for its dark green colour and its density. All these members of the plutonic series are, however, marked by the granitoid structure. Further details regarding these rocks may he found in the Geological Survey Report of Mr. LeRoy, 1908.

These varieties in the material of the Coast Range batholith do not as a rule give rise to obvious differences on the large scale. The difference hetween granite and gahhro is, however, obvious enough in the details of cliff and crag and summit.

An observer on Crown Mountain cannot help noticing a row of peaks with spiry outlines, standing a dozen miles to the north. They still retain the name which was first applied to them of "The Saw-Teeth," though the two most prominent have heen re-christened "The Twin Sisters." It is easy to see, even at long range, that they are not composed of granite. No specimens from them have been obtained

47