

physical study of the earth furnishes a natural and necessary introduction to the study of distributions which is the largest division of the whole subject. But we must go to geology for information as to the real nature of the forms of the earth's surface. The application of geology is gradually placing physical geography among the true sciences. Living organic species have no more surely been evolved from earlier types than have the present forms of the land been developed from pre-existing forms. This recognition of streams of influence from past geological ages has a salutary effect on the method of the geographer; it makes clear to him that many apparently similar land-forms should be clearly differentiated and others of unlike outward appearance should be closely associated. The lacustrine plain of southwestern Ontario, the marine plain of the St. Lawrence and the old denuded plain of Russia can only be finally and rigorously described by referring to their difference of origin. Similarly, valleys of stream erosion, fault-troughs and glaciated valleys should not be classified together simply on account of their possessing the common attribute of being linear depressions. On the other hand, the Selkirk mountains, the Laurentian highlands and the rolling plateau of Nova Scotia, at first sight utterly dissimilar, are yet most fruitfully treated of under the one class of complex mountains at different stages in the process of earth-sculpture. Repetition of types form one of the most interesting characteristics of the new physical geography, greatly aiding the memory and the understanding of land-forms. Thus a thorough discussion of the fiords of Norway renders intelligible and easily retainable in the memory the physiography of the ragged coasts of Greenland, Labrador, Alaska, New Zealand and Patagonia; the fault-trough of the Rhine is paralleled by the fault-trough of Palestine; the delicate topography associated with the vanished glacial lobes of North America, once recognized in this country as having that origin, suggested explanation for similar reliefs in Germany which have been moulded in sympathy with similar lobes.

A few indications of the influence of his physical surroundings on the life of man were given during the exhibition of lantern slides. The geological history of the earth, the physical environ-