

The lantern-views of the evening, selected from the Bickmore collection, kindly placed at the disposal of the lecturer by Professor Penhallow of McGill University, and from the likewise valuable (commercial) collection of E. R. Shepard of Minneapolis, were, for the most part, intended to illustrate the natural sculpturing of the rock-formations exposed to destructive forces so soon as those masses have become elevated to mountainous heights. The influence of running water in cutting out valleys, the importance of streams of rock débris or rock-waste in explaining the wearing away of the mountain massifs, the destructive activity of snow and ice, especially in the form, respectively, of avalanches and glaciers, were outlined and explained by reference to views from southern British Columbia and Montana. It was pointed out that the actual ridges, domes, peak and cliffs seen during a journey through the Canadian Cordillera, are more directly due to Nature's sculpture controlled chiefly by these agencies, than to upheaval of the earth's crust. The proximate cause of the individual mountains is, in reality, the excavation of the intervening valleys, sunk as these are in rock-piles once much higher than the mountains of to-day.

The colouring of mountain scenery is of course partly to be referred to the natural pigments characterizing the constituent rocks, but, in general, still more to the influence of the sky, of the clouds and of the atmosphere itself, and, again in important degree, to the forest and to the artificial changes incident to man's inhabiting, clearing and cultivating valleys and higher slopes. The coloured Bickmore slides served to illustrate this third part of the lecture. The special control of the subjective element in scenery exerted by the presence or absence of man and his works in mountain-landscape was touched upon by the lecturer, and a comparison drawn in that regard between Switzerland and the Cordillera of America.

After the lecture the Report of the Geological Branch was read.