

ON THE
ABRADING ACTION OF A STONE KEPT IN
MOTION BY A CURRENT OF WATER.

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AMONGST the minor agencies which tend to disintegrate the beds of rock which form the surface of the earth, scarcely sufficient attention has been paid to the action of a loose stone, which, finding a settlement in some depression, and being kept in motion by exposure to a current of water, gradually wears away the bed of rock on which it happens to find a lodgement, and in the course of time forms a smooth basin or channel.

A conspicuous example of this action may be seen in the so-called Gletscher Gärten at Lucerne, where, on a slope of the hillside, huge basins have been excavated in the solid rock, each one containing a large stone worn as round and as smooth as a cannon ball.

Close at hand we have a small but very neat example of this action. At Marazion, to the east of Top Teeb boat cove, a reef of killas stretches out into the sea, ending abruptly near low-water mark. At this point there is a sinuous channel worn in the

reef; and the smoothness of the worn surfaces, and the equal abrasion of the hard quartz veins and the soft slate, indicate that this channel has been excavated by the action of a stone kept in motion by the waves of the sea. The channel is about twelve feet long, and from twelve to eighteen inches in breadth, with a depth of three feet at the end nearer the shore. The first half appears to have followed a fault in the reef; but the other portion, which forms a beautiful serpentine curve, is excavated in the solid rock. A rounded stone now lies in one of the bends of this curve.

