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west-southwest. Although the general appearance of the mountain on the skyline is that of a straight line, closer inspection and the examination of the map shows considerable variation in elevations. Ignoring the gaps or notches, the crest varies from 1,400 to 1,600 feet above sea level. Some persons have been inclined to suggest two levels of different altitude but since there is no marked separation between the two, it seems preferable to regard these varying elevations as due either to crustal warping or to varying amounts of erosional degradation.

Kittatinny (Blue) Mountain may be said to typify what is regarded as a somewhat lowered peneplane remnant, the remaining portion of an extensive plane of erosion that at one time extended throughout the entire Appalachian region. It was once believed that during Cretaceous time the tops of the folded Appalachians were worn down to base level. More recently the date for this leveling has been placed in middle or late Tertiary time. Subsequent elevation has permitted the removal of the softer, less resistant rocks on both sides. Other similar ridges lie to the northwest of Kittatinny Mountain in adjoining counties. In some places there are several parallel ridges separated by steep-sided valleys. In every case the ridges are composed of hard resistant rocks and the valleys cut in shales or in a few places in limestones. Along the Susquehanna River the continuation of Kittatinny Mountain is called First Mountain and is followed northward by Second and Third mountains.

Slate (Shale) Region.—The ordinary traveler in the region can scarcely fail to note comparatively flat-topped stream divides in the northern part of the county where the rocks are mainly the Martinsburg shales and slates but with some associated sandstones. In the southern portion of the band these fairly level hilltops have a general elevation of 650 to 700 feet, but going north toward Kittatinny (Blue) Mountain similar divides rise above 800 feet. Where the sandstones are well-developed, the crests rise well above 900 feet. A knob near the western end of Shochary Ridge is 1,060 feet above sea level and the apex of the ridge south of Slatington is 1,000 feet. In Lehigh County the accordance of these fairly level hilltops is less noticeable than in adjoining regions. Nevertheless the entire region would present a gently rolling surface gradually rising toward the north, if the steep-sided narrow stream valleys could be filled, with the sandstone ridges rising above the level surface as monadnocks.

The streams of the region, especially the headwater tributaries of Jordan and Coplay creeks flowing into the Lehigh River and Mill and Ontelaunee creeks flowing westward into the Schuylkill, have intricately carved the originally continuous upland, making it a decidedly uneven surface. They have cut their valleys to depths varying from 100 to 400 feet.

The hillsides of the region are characteristic. The slopes are symmetrically rounded near the tops of the divides and steep in proximity to the streams. Anyone familiar with this type of topography could scarcely fail to identify it as characteristic of a slate region and distinctly unlike anything to be seen in other portions of the county.

The characteristics of the streams of the slate belt are distinctive. They are described on a later page.