the Triassic rocks come in contact with the Paleozoic limestones through an overlap. Beyond the Susquehanna River, the crystalline rocks again come to the surface and continue southwestward and southward to Georgia as the Blue Ridge Province.

Several different names have been applied to this belt of hills. The Second Geological Survey of Pennsylvania used the name Durham and Reading Hills. The mountain paralleling the Lehigh River between Bethlehem and Allentown has been called South Mountain and also Lehigh Mountain. Both of these names have also been applied to other portions of the belt. Names have been given to individual mountains also, as shown on the map.

The use of the term South Mountains in this region sometimes results in confusion as it has been used more commonly for the mountains bounding the Appalachian Valley on the southeast in Adams and Franklin counties. Local usage, however, is followed rather than the proposal of a new name or the restoration of uncommon names.

As shown on the map, few generalizations can be made concerning the size, shape, height or direction of the hills of this province. Elongation in a west-southwest direction and separation by narrow valleys of like trend is noticeable although there are exceptions. Some of the ridges are several miles long; some hills are isolated, rounded. Flat-topped prominences are lacking and no correlation of the hill tops can be made. East of the Delaware River in New Jersey and continuous with this section is the fairly flat-topped Schooley Mountain. Presumably, at one time such a feature may have been present in Northampton County but it has now disappeared by differential erosion.

Some hill tops exceed 700 feet elevation and two rise above 1,000 feet. The slopes of the mountains are generally covered with talus, in some cases extremely large blocks. The thickness of the talus can seldom be determined, as excavations for new structures on the lower slopes rarely encounter the solid rock in place. Anomalous conditions can be found in the region, such as hard fresh rocks outcropping as steep ledges; rocks weathered in place to such an extent that they can be dug readily with pick and shovel to the depths of 40 or 50 feet; and talus composed of both fresh and decomposed rocks. On the hill slopes in many places excellent examples of spheroidal or concentric weathering (exfoliation) of angular blocks of gneiss can be found. They are as spherical as though they had been rounded by stream transportation.

In many places north slopes are steeper than south slopes. This is explained as the result of frost action. On the northern slopes the soil water may be frozen only a few times during each winter but on the southern sides numerous alternate freezings and thawings each