

The relation of the clays to the older gravels shows that the gravels were cut off on the south by running water so as to form a well defined bank. Down this bank cobbles and boulders rolled. Subsequently clays began to deposit in horizontal layers against the bank, indicating a change from powerful streams of water running over the surface and cutting deeply into its drift deposits to a time of quiet silt-laden waters.

Further indications of the mode of building of these older gravels occur in a pit in the same vicinity. The structure is that of an aggraded deposit of gravels with extremely coarse lenses

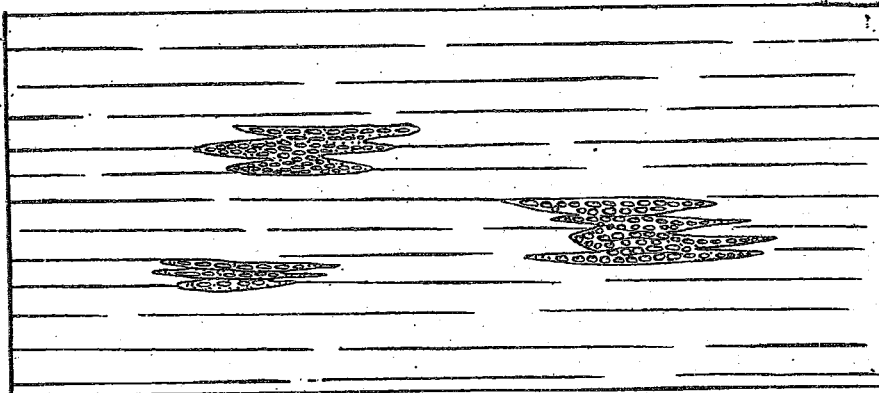


Fig. 16 Cross-section of aggraded glacial gravel deposit at North Albany, showing lenses of coarse gravel in old stream bed. [See also pl. 9]

showing where the stream bed as it wandered from point to point in the building up of the deposit happens to appear in the cut. The above figure illustrates the general cross-section of the pit.

*Mohawk delta.* The extensive sand and clay plains developed on the Albany and Schenectady quadrangles in the towns of Bethlehem, Guilderland, Watervliet, Niskayuna and Rotterdam, south of the Mohawk river, form an ancient delta of that river and are the most extensive deposits of this nature in the Hudson if not also in the Champlain valleys. The deposit, clayey below and near the Hudson gorge, gives way to sands toward the northwest and in the upper sections. Along the Hudson gorge the deposit fills in depressions in the rock bench and mantles this older topography except at such localities as the Abbey at Glenmont. The average elevation of the surface from Albany south-