The primacy of New York among the states in population, wealth, manufacture and commerce is based on its physical characters—geologic structure, physiographic relief and geographic relations. The state has the greatest range and perfection in its stratigraphic series and the greatest variety in physiographic features. In scenery other states may possess single features of surpassing grandeur and beauty, like the Colorado Grand Canyon, Yosemite Valley, Crater Lake, the mountains of the Cordillera or the snow-capped volcanic cones of the northwest, but for abundance and variety of beautiful scenery of educational value New York may claim first place. In the variety and excellence of Pleistocene phenomena the state probably excels any other equal area of the earth’s surface. This is due to the varied and unusual physiography combined with a favoring attitude of the area in relation to the continental glacier. The features of special excellence occur largely in the western part of the state. These are the series of more than twenty parallel, north-sloping valleys which hold the unique series of twelve so-called Finger lakes; the remarkable succession of glacial lakes in the Ontario drainage area; the conspicuous, abandoned channels of the rivers that drained those lakes; the surpassing display of drumlins, kames and eskers; the fine series of mo-