THE CONCEPT OF NATURAL LAW IN GEOLOGY

By Professor WALTER H. BUCHER
UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

Geology operates largely without the concept of "natural law." The speaker became keenly aware of this circumstance when, a number of years ago, he began his efforts to derive from rapidly accumulating knowledge concerning the geology of different parts of the earth generalizations to form a reliable foundation for reasoning concerning the dynamics of the earth's crust. When he spoke of them as "laws of crustal deformation," he had to meet the objections of others and his own doubts. He had to view the procedure of geologic investigations in the light of the fundamental methods of all science.

Some of the resulting reflections are presented here before men from many fields of science in the hope

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