TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES.

Though there are no mountains in Wisconsin, there are many prominent "mounds," so called, among them the Blue Mounds in Iowa and Dane counties, 1,729 feet above the sea; the Platte Mounds 1,281 feet, and the Sinsinewa Mound 1,169 feet, in Grant county. There is a prominent ridge or elevation of land along the sources of the tributaries of Lake Superior, which, near the Montreal river, is 1,700 or 1,800 feet above the sea level, gradually diminishing to about 1,100 feet at the west line of the state. The calcareous cliffs along the east shore of Green Bay and of Lake Winnebago, extend south through Dodge county, and form in many places bold escarpments; some of the higher points are 1,400 feet above the sea. A series of still more prominent "bluffs" extend along the banks of the Mississippi river, forming some of the grandest and most picturesque scenery in the country. With the exceptions above named, nearly the whole surface of the state may be regarded as one vast, slightly undulated plain, having an elevation of from 600 to 1,500 feet above the ocean. This great plain is cut in every direction by the currents of rivers and streams, that have made for themselves often deep and narrow valleys in the yielding soil and rocks. The dividing grounds, between these valleys (watersheds) usually attain but a slight elevation above the surrounding country, the waters of a lake or marsh, being often drained in opposite directions to reach the ocean at widely different points. Canoes often pass from the head of one stream to another without difficulty. At Portage city the Fox and Wisconsin rivers approach so nearly that their waters are often commingled; they are connected by a short canal, from which there is a descent of 195 feet to Green Bay, and 171 feet to the Mississippi, at Prairie du Chien. The greatest depressions in the state are the surface of Lake Michigan (578) feet, and the valley of the Mississippi, in which the low water at the mouth of the Platte river near the south boundary of the state is 591 feet above the sea; at Prairie du Chien 602; at La Crosse 632; and at the mouth of the St. Croix, where it enters the state, 677 feet; this great river having in this portion of its course a descent of four-tenths of a foot per mile.

WATER POWER.

The annual average quantity of rain, (including melted snow,) varies from twenty-two inches in the region of Lake Superior on the north, to thirty-six inches at Beloit on Rock river at the southern boundary; the general average being about thirty inches, which is the quantity falling on the counties bordering upon Lake Michigan. About one half this water is returned directly to the atmosphere by evaporation from the surface; one-fourth is con-