

MINERAL RESOURCES.

GENERAL STATEMENT.

The geological formations which have been described in the preceding pages afford a great variety of mineral products, some of which are mined to-day with profit and are susceptible of further development; others which have in the past been successfully employed, but are not at the present time worked, although the commercial conditions may be such as to again render them of economic value; and still others which are known to occur, but have not yet been found in sufficient quantities to warrant their exploitation.

The location and distribution of each of these mineral products is determined by the geological formation in which it is found, the limits of the formation representing at the same time the boundaries within which the particular economic product may be anticipated. Many mineral products, to be sure, may be restricted to certain portions of a particular formation, or in some instances may be found in more than one such geological division. Still geological maps are recognized to-day as of much importance by those who are intelligently developing our resources, and are regarded as a valuable guide in determining the distribution of the economic deposits. The futility of attempting to develop mineral substances in a formation which has been shown by careful geological investigation to be devoid of them is also clearly recognized, and in this way large sums of money, which might otherwise be lost in fruitless enterprises, are saved.

The distribution of the mineral resources of Maryland may be best understood by reference to the geological map. In the crystalline rocks of the Piedmont region, between the Monocacy and the Chesapeake, we find the most varied, if not the most valuable list. Here occur the most important building stones: the slates of Delta and Ijamsville; the granites of Port Deposit, Woodstock and Guilford; the gneiss of Baltimore; the marble of Cockeysville and Texas; the sandstone of Deer Creek; and the serpentine of Broad Creek and Bare Hills. In these oldest rocks occur also the ores of gold, copper, chrome, lead and zinc. Much of the best iron ore also belongs here,