obtained from this area, but the gold is so unevenly distributed that it has not yet been worked with profit. Reports are frequent of the discovery of gold in other portions of Maryland, but these finds are generally without foundation and none have as yet been proved to be of any value. At the time of the last census in 1890 the amount of gold produced in Maryland was valued at $16,885. Practically nothing is now being done in the development of the gold properties.

THE MINERAL PAINTS.

Mineral paint has been produced at several points in Maryland and in widely different geological horizons. Large quantities have been obtained in the past from the brown iron ore deposits in Frederick county, but nothing is being done at the present time in that region. Ochre mines have also been operated in Carroll and Howard counties, and something is being done in these regions at the present time.

Important deposits of paint ore have also been obtained from the Patapsco formation in Anne Arundel and Prince George's counties. This ore occurs in a fine and highly ferruginous clay and can be worked readily. There are several industries at the present time established in this belt and the opportunities for its further development are exceedingly good.

The value of the mineral paints produced in Maryland during 1896 aggregates $2,000.

THE DIATOMACEOUS EARTH.

Diatomaceous earth, known to the trade as Infusorial earth, or Tripoli, has been produced in larger quantities in Maryland than elsewhere in the United States. The Diatomaceous earth in Maryland is found at the base of the Chesapeake formation and consists of deposits, which in northern Calvert and Charles counties attain a thickness of 30 to 40 feet; the most extensively worked localities are situated near the mouth of Lyon's creek on the Patuxent river and at Pope's creek on the Potomac river.

Diatomaceous earth is made up of the microscopic shells of diatoms.