

opment of this industry, and it is the intention of the State Geological Survey at an early date to take up a systematic investigation of the coal-bearing beds of this portion of the state. Already enough has been learned in the preliminary examination of the area to convince the members of the survey that extensive deposits of coal exist there.

**GOLD DEPOSITS.**—There is undoubtedly a considerable volume of gold scattered through the crystalline rocks of the Piedmont portion of Maryland, but it has not hitherto been found in sufficient quantities at any one point to give assurance of its being worked with profit by present methods. It is not at all improbable, however, as the various processes are improved, that the gold deposits of Maryland will come to have much value, and it is certainly desirable that the character and distribution of these gold ores should be fully studied by the State Geological Survey. Such investigations are to-day being accorded the gold deposits of the adjacent states where the outlook can be considered to be little better than in Maryland.

**SOAPSTONE.**—Soapstone quarries have been opened from time to time in the northern portion of the Piedmont area, and it is desirable that the distribution of this material should be carefully determined. Larger and more readily worked deposits may be discovered in the careful investigation of the crystalline rocks, which will tend to very largely develop this important industry. It is the intention of the State Geological Survey to consider this matter as its work proceeds.

**MINERAL PAINTS.**—Mineral paints in several varieties have been obtained in various portions of Maryland, and are to-day being worked to some extent in the region between Baltimore and Washington. These mineral paints are found in the old crystalline and in the recent sedimentary rocks. It is probable that further investigations will reveal other deposits and that this industry may receive much aid from the work of the survey.

**DIATOMACEOUS EARTH (Tripoli).**—The deposits of diatomaceous earth, sometimes known as infusorial earth or tripoli, extend as a thick bed across the eastern and southern counties of Maryland and have been worked with profit at several points in the latter area. As the work of the State Geological Survey proceeds, the extent of these