

Silica	64.20	67.20	66.73	67.94	61.06	59.60	53.48
Alumina	18.40	20.03	17.36	18.93	19.68	24.28	26.46
Potash	16.95	8.85	8.27	2.41	3.91	1.08	0.22
Soda . . . . .	.....	5.06	4.10	10.	7.55	6.53	4.10
Lime, oxide of iron, and mag- nesia. . . . .	.45	.....	3.54	.72	7.80	8.51	15.74

Although there is considerable variety of composition, yet we find that potash or soda, or both, are found in all of them.

Felspar becomes an important material in the economy of nature, because it is believed to have furnished the greater portion of the silicates of the alcalies, so essential to the growth of plants, by means which will be adverted to in another chapter.

3.—MICA.

The term isinglass has been often applied to this mineral; improperly, however, because that name belongs to another well known article of animal origin.

Mica is usually gray or greenish, and sometimes black. It may be readily divided into extremely thin plates, by which character it may be distinguished from talc, as the elasticity of a very thin plate of mica is such that if bent it will return to its original shape. This does not take place with talc, which it otherwise resembles.

Mica varies somewhat in its composition, as is shown in the following table of analyses of six varieties:

	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
Silica	46.23	40.19	50.82	47.50	47.19	36.54
Alumina	14.14	22.79	21.33	37.20	32.80	25.47
Oxide of manganese	4.57	2.02	.....	.90	2.58	1.92
Oxide of iron	17.97	19.78	9.08	3.20	1.47	27.06
Potash	4.90	7.49	9.86	9.60	8.35	5.48
Lithica	4.21	3.06	4.05	.....	.....	.....
Fluoric acid	8.53	3.99	4.81	0.56	.29	2.70
Lime . . . . .	.....	.....	.....	.....	6.13	0.93
Water . . . . .	.....	.....	.....	2.67	4.07	.....

It will be noticed that all the above contain potash.