

Mica is a constituent part of granite, gneiss, and mica-slate rocks, and also is found in most sandstones and some other rocks, but as it is very slowly decomposed by natural causes, it does not so readily give up its alkalies as felspar.

4.—TALC AND STEATITE.

Pure talc is sometimes white, but usually of some shade of green, and is frequently more or less transparent. It is mostly soft and unctuous to the touch, and has a pearly lustre.

Steatite, usually called soapstone, is a massive and less pure variety of talc.

The composition of talc is as follows:

	1.	2.	3.
Silica	62.58	65.75	64.85
Magnesia	35.40	31.68	28.43
Oxide of iron	1.98	1.70	1.40
Water04	4.83	5.22

5.—SERPENTINE.

This like talc consists principally of silica and magnesia, but contain more water than talc, as is shown in the table below:

	1.	2.
Silica	36.19	41.67
Magnesia	21.08	41.25
Oxide of iron	22.73
Water	10.08	13.80
Oxide of chrome alumina	3.06	1.87

Serpentine occurs massive, and its color is usually some shade of green; sometimes variegated, with shades of red, blue, and purple. It is one of the constituents of the much prized verde antique marble.