

where the Baltimore and Washington Railroad crosses the Patapsco river. There is also a thin dyke of porphyry near the Relay-house, on the Northern Central Railroad.

5.—AMYGDALOID.

The base of this rock is often similar to that of porphyry, but the imbedded material, instead of being in crystals, consists of rounded pieces similar in shape to the kernel of an almond. Hence the name.

The imbedded matters are usually carbonate of lime, or chalcedony, supposed to have been deposited in pre-existing cavities in the rock.

This rock is rare in Maryland, having only been found in the Catoctin Mountain.

6.—TRAP ROCK. (AMPHIBOLITE.)

This term is by some geologists applied to various intrusive rocks, but we shall restrict it for the present to those in which hornblende is an essential constituent. It consists of hornblende and felspar, and sometimes contains black or brown pyroxene.

These minerals are usually in crystals aggregated together. In some cases the crystals are large, where the rock resembles, and in fact seems to pass into syenite, as near the base of the Catoctin Mountain, northeast of Emmitsburg. In other localities amphibolite consists almost entirely of hornblende. Sometimes, as in several parts of Frederick and Carroll counties, the crystalline grains are so small as to give the rock a compact appearance, and the aggregated constitution of the mass can only be determined by a good lens.

Different varieties of amphibolite or trap exist in Cecil, Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Howard, Montgomery, and to a small extent in the eastern part of Washington county.

Some varieties of porphyry, like the granites and syenite, readily disintegrate, and form soils of medium fertility, whilst others are acted on so slowly as to afford only a thin covering of soil.

7.—SERPENTINE,

Has already been noticed as a simple mineral, but must also be enumerated among the rocks. It seems to have been forced up as an intrusive rock in isolated masses of limited areas in Cecil, Harford, Baltimore, Howard, and Montgomery counties. It is slowly acted on by atmospheric agents, and furnishes a barren soil wherever it is the nearest rock to the surface.