

B.—*Rocks of aqueous origin.* A.—*Chemical deposits.*

1.—LIMESTONE.

The term limestone is applied to a very important class of rocks, differing much in appearance from each other. They are essentially composed of carbonic acid and lime, mixed up with various other mineral matters, which may be termed impurities.

Limestones are supposed to have been deposited from aqueous solutions, and when unaltered by heat, are usually more or less compact and fine-grained in appearance. They have also usually a foliated or slaty structure.

The action of internal heat has in many cases rendered them more compact, and often obliterated the foliated structure in a greater or less degree. Again, we have limestones made up of aggregates of chrySTALLINE grains of carbonate of lime and small portions of other minerals disseminated through the mass. Some of these are called saccharoidal, because of their resemblance to loaf sugar. Those consisting of large crystalline grains have the local name of alum limestone. All these varieties are abundant in Maryland.

2.—DOLOMITE, OR MAGNESIAN LIMESTONE.

Pure dolomite has been noticed among the simple minerals. The granular variety is rarely found in quantity as a rock, without being mixed with various impurities. It occurs in this state associated with metamorphic limestones in Harford, Baltimore, and Howard counties. In addition to its occurrence in this way in large masses, we have the carbonate of magnesia more or less mixed up with all our limestones, especially eastward of the North Mountain. The proportion of magnesia in these mixed limestones varies from one ten or fifteen per cent.

B.—*Mechanical or sedimentary deposits.*

1.—SANDSTONE.

The essential components of sandstone consist in grains of sand composed of quartz, or other hard minerals, which have been deposited from water, and afterwards cemented together so as to form solid masses.

Sandstones occur in some localities composed almost entirely of nearly pure and white grains of quartz sand, with pure siliceous cement. Such are the white sandstones of