istry, it is a sulphate of lime. Its constituents occur abundanly in the bed of clay which has just been described—the sulphuric acid being derived from the decomposition of the iron pyrites and copperas, and the lime from that of the shells. Their spontaneous union, under a variety of favorable circumstances belonging to this locality, is explicable by the first principles of chemical science. Wherever the same conditions shall be found to exist, the production of selenite may be confidently expected. Accordingly, at Hog Point on the Patuxent river, where a bed of clay occurs similarly constituted to that on the St. Mary, a like formation of the same substance is found to take place. From the relative position of the two localities, it is presumed that the bed of clay extends across a great portion of the peninsula of St. Mary's county, and may be looked upon as a natural factory, upon a large scale, of an article which can be rendered valuable in many ways. It may be proper, however, to add the remark, that these masses of selenite cannot be expected to occur throughout the whole bed of clay. They will be found only at its outbreakings, where the concurrent action of the atmosphere and of waters will bring about the conditions necessary for their production.

The occurrence of plaster of paris on the Patuxent is an old tradition in Maryland. It is known, too, that the stucco employed in the State House, at Annapolis, is made with sulphate of lime obtained from St. Mary's county. This fact had induced an enterprising agriculturist from a neighboring state to make arrangements for proceeding to the discovery of some continuous deposite of the mineral. The enterprise, afterwards, was abandoned, in conse-