

ingredients; but different specimens of this mineral vary according to the analyses of the same chemist.

Silex	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	63—74
Alumine	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17—14
Potash	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13—
Lime	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3— 6
Oxide of iron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1—
Loss	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3— 6

Others give the proportion of silex 46, alumine 24, lime 6.

The existence of potash, or the vegetable alkali, in felspar, is a fact deserving of particular attention.* It may be owing to this circumstance, that felspar is so frequently observed in a soft or decomposing state, although when undecayed its hardness is little inferior to that of quartz. Those felspars which are durable are probably free from potash. Felspar in a compact form, occurs in many rocks; it constitutes the principal part of most porphyries, and of the lighter-coloured lavas. Compact felspar differs from hornstone, the latter being infusible without the addition of alkalies.

Mica derives its name from the Latin *micans*, glittering. It has a splendid lustre and is known as the substance called Muscovy glass. It consists of very thin leaves or laminæ, which may be easily separated with a knife. The plates are elastic, by which it may be distinguished from the mineral called talc. The thin plates are transparent. The colours of the thick plates are yellow, grey, blackish green, white, and brown. The surface may be scratched with a knife: it melts into an enamel with the blowpipe: it is sometimes crystallized in six-sided prisms.

Talc nearly resembles mica in appearance. The plates are flexible, but not elastic: it is much softer than mica, and is infusible; its colours generally incline towards green, but it is sometimes of a silver white: it has a soapy feel. *Chlorite*, which is nearly allied to talc, derives its name from *chloros*, the Greek word signifying green. Talc and chlorite pass, by insensible gradations, into each other, and in this state, they supply the place of mica in most of the granitic rocks that I have examined in the vicinity of Mont Blanc. Chlorite is of a darkish dull green colour; it has a glistening lustre; its structure is minutely foliated; it is soft, and rather unctuous. The constituents of these three minerals are,—

* It has recently been discovered, that, in some of the felspathic rocks, soda occupies the place of potash, and gives a slight change to the crystalline form: some mineralogists are desirous of making this variety a new species, and have proposed to give it the name of Cleavelandite; but geology and mineralogy are already too much burdened with unmeaning terms, and if a new name must be introduced, that of felsparite would be more appropriate, and convey an idea of its approximation to felspar.