

The argillaceous members are usually called "marl," though they contain little calcareous matter: they are often laminated; their colour is usually very red; but in the reddest cliffs occur distinct bands and spots of a bluish, greenish, or white colour; and in particular parts of these variegated marls lie nodules, and irregular beds and vertical plates of gypsum, very strangely ramified, or completely insulated in the mass of argillaceous matter.

The limestones of this system vary much. They are often loaded with magnesia, and in general called "magnesian limestone;" but there are many beds in which little or no foreign admixture deteriorates the carbonate of lime. The colours are white, grey, smoky, but more frequently yellow; and in some districts reddened, or even very red. In texture, a few limestones are compact, some oolitic, many cellular, the cells lined with crystallised carbonate of lime, a large proportion of a fine sandy grain, some quite powdery, with crystallised balls included; and in Nottinghamshire, considerable tracts yield granular crystallised limestones. Near Sunderland laminated rocks are really of sparry texture. Strings and plates of spar are very common, and render buildings of the magnesian limestone very irregular in their decay, from the unequal perishing of the stone between the ribs of spar.

The muschelkalk of Germany, not yet admitted as an English rock (the upper part of the magnesian limestone of the north of England is somewhat similar in mineral properties, but is apparently lower in the series), is usually a compact, hard limestone, of a grey or smoky tint; sometimes (Courcelles) it deviates to a whitish soft stone, more analogous to the magnesian type.

Rock salt occurs in the state of clear, white cubically crystallised masses, or reddened by the argillaceous sediment, among which it occurs; sometimes in Cheshire the red salt is fibrous. Brine springs, which issue from "rock salt," contain combinations of iodine and bromine, though in the rock itself that substance can hardly