

places from whence they flow. At the same time it must be borne in mind that fresh water is perpetually falling from the atmosphere upon the surface of the lias clay, and more or less percolating through its uppermost strata."*

21. ROCK-SALT AND BRINE-SPRINGS.—Brine-springs, emanating from water flowing through subterranean masses of salt, occur in the great plains of the red sandstone of Cheshire. The depositories of salt do not however extend over the strata in a connected bed, but occupy limited areas. The saliferous strata of Northwich present the following series :—

	Feet.
1. Uppermost calcareous marl	15
2. Red and blue clays	120
3. Bed of rock salt	75
4. Clay, with veins of rock salt	31
5. Second bed of rock salt	110

Droitwich, in Worcestershire, which is situated nearly in the centre of the county, has long been celebrated for the production of salt from its brine-springs, which appear to be inexhaustible. It is probable that the manufacture is coeval with the town itself; but it was not till the year 1725, that the strong brine for which it is now famous was discovered; this brine, the purity of which is considered superior to that of any other,

* Outline of the Geology of the Neighbourhood of Cheltenham, by R. I. Murchison, Esq. F.R.S. Cheltenham, 1834.