

- Obsidian.** Vitreous lava like melted glass, nearly allied to pitchstone.
- Ophiolite.** A name given by Al. Brongniart to serpentine.
- Ophite.** A name given by Palassou to certain trap rocks of the Pyrenees, very variable in composition, usually composed of Labrador-felspar and hornblende, and sometimes augite, occasionally of a green color, and passing into serpentine.
- Palagonite Tuff.** An altered volcanic tuff containing the substance termed palagonite. *See* p. 470.
- Pearlstone.** A volcanic rock, having the lustre of mother of pearl; usually having a nodular structure; intimately related to obsidian, but less glassy.
- Peperino.** A form of volcanic tuff, composed of basaltic scorix. *See* p. 470.
- Petrosilex.** *See* Clinkstone and Compact Felspar.
- Phonolite.** *Syn.* of Clinkstone, which see.
- Pitchstone, or Retinite, of the French.** Vitreous lava, less glassy than obsidian; a blackish green rock resembling glass, having a resinous lustre and appearance of pitch; composition usually of glassy felspar (orthoclase) with a little mica, quartz, and hornblende; in Arran it forms a dike thirty feet wide, cutting through sandstone.
- Pumice.** A light, spongy, fibrous form of trachyte. *See* p. 469.
- Pyroxenic-porphyr, same as augitic-porphyr, pyroxene being Haüy's name for augite.**
- Scorix.** *Syn.* volcanic cinders; reddish brown or black porous form of lava. *See* p. 469.
- Serpentine.** A greenish rock in which there is much magnesia. Its composition always approaches very near to the mineral called "noble serpentine" (*see* Table of Analyses, p. 475), which forms veins in this rock. The minerals most commonly found in Serpentine are diallage, garnet, chlorite, oxydulous iron, and chromate of iron. The diallage and garnet occurring in serpentine are richer in magnesia than when they are crystallized in other rocks. (*Delesse Ann. des Mines, 1851, tom. xviii. p. 309*). Occurs sometimes, though rarely, in dikes, altering the contiguous strata; is indifferently a member of the trappean or hypogene series. Its absence from recent volcanic products seems to imply that it belongs properly to the metamorphic class; and, even when it is found in dikes cutting through aqueous formations, it may be an altered basalt, which abounded greatly in olivine.
- Tephritine, synonymous with lava.** Name proposed by Alex. Brongniart.
- Toadstone.** A local name in Derbyshire for a kind of wacké, which see.
- Trachyte.** Chiefly composed of glassy felspar, with crystals of glassy felspar. *See* p. 466.
- Trap Tuff.** *See* p. 470.
- Trass.** A kind of tuff or mud poured out by lake-craters during eruptions; common in the Eifel, in Germany.
- Tuff.** *Syn.* Trap-tuff, volcanic tuff. *See* p. 470.
- Vitreous Lava.** *See* Pitchstone and Obsidian.
- Volcanic Tuff.** *See* p. 470.
- Wacké.** A soft and earthy variety of trap, having an argillaceous aspect. It resembles indurated clay, and when scratched, exhibits a shining streak.
- Whinstone.** A Scotch provincial term for greenstone and other hard trap rocks.