

been noticed that the "country" through which mineral-veins run is often considerably decomposed. In Cornwall, this is specially observable in the granite. Round the Comstock Lode also, the diabase is particularly decayed. Moreover, in most mineral-veins there occur layers of clay, earth, or other soft friable loamy substances, to which various mining names are given. The great majority of the remarkable minerals of the southwest of England occur in those parts of the lodes where such soft earths abound. The veins evidently serve as channels for the circulation of water both upward and downward, and to this circulation the decay of some bands into mere clay or earth, and the recrystallization of part of their ingredients into rare or interesting minerals, are to be ascribed. It is observable, also, that the upper parts of pyritous mineral-veins, as they approach the surface of the ground, are usually more or less decomposed from the infiltration of meteoric water, siliceous peroxide of iron and limonite being especially predominant. (Gossan of Cornwall, Chapeau de Fer, Eiserner Hut.)

§ ii. Stocks and Stock-works. (Stöcke, Stockwerke.)

Cavernous spaces dissolved out in such rocks as limestone, or caused by rupture or otherwise, may be of indeterminate shape, and may be filled with one or more vein-stones of ores, either in symmetrical zones following the outline of walls, floor, and roof, or in parallel and roughly horizontal bands (Fig. 321). Irregular metalliferous masses of this kind have long been known in Germany by the name of Stocks (Stöcke) when of large size, smaller aggregations being known as *Butzen* (cones) and *Nester* (tufts). The size of these indefinite accumulations of ore varies from mere nests up to masses 800 feet or more in one direction by 200 feet or more