iridescent as the result of corrosion. On the extraction of the alkali by water this lime is left behind with the silica, and forms with it a hard, insoluble silicate of lime, which adheres to the corroded surface of the glass, forming an opaque scum or patina. In some cases this is so marked that the glass appears to be covered with a coat of cement,

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position. Proceeding from this centre the glass is found decomposing into definite compounds in an ever-enlarging circle until it reaches a point at which the strain set up in the glass by this molecular movement results in a crack forming round the area of decomposition, and then the whole mass comes away, leaving behind it a little hole or pit in the surface of the glass."

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