

assume on cooling a pale-reddish tint. The other minerals of the sub-group become dark-grey or blackish.

*Agalmatolite* occurs in fine-granular, almost compact (or crypto-scaly), very sectile, masses; white, yellowish, reddish-white, &c., in colour, and sufficiently soft to be scratched by the finger-nail. Many of the small, Chinese images seen in collections consist of this mineral—hence, its popular name of “Figure Stone;” but some of these images (perhaps the greater number) consist of steatite or serpentine. *Pyrophyllite* occurs in very soft, pearly-white, scaly and foliated examples, much resembling Nacrite or Talc, but distinguished by expanding and exfoliating very strikingly under the first action of the blowpipe-flame. It does not fuse, however, beyond exhibiting signs of vitrification on the extreme edges. Both *Agalmatolite* and *Pyrophyllite*, on intense ignition, yield about 5 p. c. water, but when tested in the ordinary manner in the bulb-tube, they give off traces, merely.

*Talc proper* is readily distinguished by its occurrence in very soft, flexible, scaly and foliated examples, of a pearly-white, apple-green or other colour, distinctly soapy to the touch. *Steatite* is a compact or fine-granular talc, white, grey, greenish, reddish, or mottled in colour, very sectile, and also soapy-feeling. (Hence frequently called “soap-stone,” but this name is vaguely applied to compact chlorite, serpentine, &c., as well.) H (in *Talc*) 1; in *Steatite* 1·5 to 2·5; sp. gr. 2·67 to 2·8. BB, both harden considerably, and usually exhibit signs of fusion on very thin edges, but, practically may be regarded as infusible. In the bulb-tube, traces of water are often given off; but the actual (basic?)