

ROCKS AND MINERALS.

Granite is a rock some of whose characteristics and uses are as widely known as are those of most naturally occurring substances. Boulders of it are found strewn over nearly all agricultural districts in northern countries, and in rocky and barren regions it frequently occurs in large masses (Figs. 2, 84).

On account of the widespread occurrence of this rock, and from the fact that monuments and other structures made of it are to be seen in almost every district occupied by civilized



FIG. 2.
Boulders in a field near Ottawa, Ont.
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people, it serves as a suitable material for the use of the beginner in the practical study of mineralogy and geology.

If a hand specimen of a rather coarse-grained variety of this rock, or a surface of a boulder, be examined with the unaided eye, it will be seen to be made up, usually, of grains of three substances. One of these is a hard, light-colored, glassy material which breaks with a rough or uneven fracture, and