

rock of the chain, the structure of all these mountain regions being synclinal, as we have endeavoured to show in the case of the Alps, (*Silliman's Journal* (2) xxix. 118,) and as Sir Roderick Murchison has beautifully represented in his late section across the Scottish Highlands. (See his new Geol. Map of Scotland).

MISCELLANEOUS.

CHROMIC IRON ORE AND ASBESTUS.

We copy from a late number of the *Chemical News*, the following notice of the chromic iron and asbestus from the vicinity of Baltimore, lately imported into England. It is known to many of our readers that the Geological Survey has already shewn the existence in several parts of the Eastern Townships, and in Gaspé, of large deposits of this valuable ore, equal in richness to the samples from the United States:—"The amount of sesqui-oxide of chromium in the present ore, as determined by Dr. Genth, is stated to be equivalent to 63 per cent. of *chromic acid*—a mode of expressing the value of the ore by the quantity of chromic acid produced on fusion with an alkali, and not that of the green sesqui-oxide actually contained therein. Ore of this superior description may be obtained in casks ready for shipment, at the rate of about one dollar for each one per cent. of chromic acid per ton, and in quantities of about 200 tons annually. It is, however, considered more judicious to work this ore in admixture with other qualities which are produced in greater abundance,—1500 tons annually,—the average composition of such samples furnishing usually about 50 per cent of chromic acid. The ore last described was accompanied by specimens of asbestus, and of paper containing about one-third proportion of the same. This mineral may be procured at the rate of 1½ cents per pound,—a low price considering the high quality of the article offered. The specimen sent is beautifully white, and the fibres are long and delicate. It has been tried in America for paper-making and for the manufacture of steam-packing, in both of which applications it is said to be very serviceable. Its property of resisting heat, and its bad conducting power, would render this material particularly valuable in connection with steam machinery. The sheet of paper sent is a portion of an experimental manufacture; it burns with flame, leaving a white incombustible residue, which, with careful management, retains the form of the original sheet; the weight of ash amounting precisely to 20 per cent."