

Garhofian, a white, sub-translucent porcelain-like variety.

Brown spar, colored brown by carbonate of iron.

Compact massive, resembling common limestone. This occurs in extensive beds and is burned for quick-lime, making a more durable cement than the calcium carbonate alone. It is also used much in making the hydraulic cement. Dolomitic lime is said to be injurious to the soil, but if it is allowed to become thoroughly air-slacked before using it will be found to be beneficial. One of the important uses of this mineral is in the manufacture of Epsom salts.

GYP-SUM.

The mineral gypsum occurs in several distinct varieties.

Crystallized or *Selenite*. This form is either in distinct crystals or in broad thin plates which are perfectly transparent and have a pearly lustre. This form is made use of in some optical apparatus. Most crystals are white but some have a yellow, reddish or gray color. Beautiful specimens are sometimes obtained by the evaporation of sea or spring water in the manufacture of salt, as these waters contain gypsum in solution.

Fibrous Gypsum, a white delicate variety. When very fine and somewhat opalescent it is called *satin spar* which is made use of in jewelry.

Massive, to which belong (a) *Alabaster*, a somewhat translucent very fine grained variety useful for making vases, statues, and other ornaments; (b) *Rock Gypsum*, a dull-colored rock impure from clay or limestone. This variety occurs in extensive beds in many parts of the world, especially in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. These places supply the most of the gypsum used in the provinces and the Eastern United States. When ground it is much used as a fertilizer for it is one of the best absorbers of ammonia known, thus furnishing nitrogen to the plant, and probably some of the gypsum itself is taken up by the plant.

Plaster of Paris is prepared from ground gypsum by heating till the water of crystalization is driven out, and when water is added to this some is again absorbed and the mass forms into minute crystals becoming nearly as hard as the original rock. It is much used as a cement, for making moulds, taking impressions, producing a hard finish on walls, glazing porcelain, preparing artificial marble, etc.