

MINERAL FERTILIZERS.

Limetones suitable for the manufacture of lime are abundant in many parts of the island. Shell marls occur in a few places in St. George's Bay. While gypsum is one of the most extensive and abundant products of the Carboniferous formation in the same region. Besides its use as a fertilizer, much of this gypsum is of the snow white variety, admirably adapted for stucco-work. Only last season was the first attempt made to work and ship to market this crude material. An American Company, which uses large quantities of the finer qualities of gypsum, for such purposes as dressing the surfaces of writing paper—giving it a fine white gloss—and the adulteration of flour in the manufacture of confectionery, &c., where only the very purest snow-white gypsum would be applicable, have leased one of the gigantic masses which appear near the shore, and are working it vigorously since then. Veins of beautiful selenite—alabaster—frequently penetrate the masses of gypsum, and in Codroy Valley considerable quantities of it are found. The presence of phosphate of lime, Apatite, has as yet only been recognized as mere specimens; there is good reason to suspect its occurrence in more pronounced deposits, amongst the Laurentian series of formations, so extensively distributed in this island. Specimens indicating its presence on the Labrador, are to be seen in the Museum.

MINERAL PIGMENTS.

Barite, both white and of a pink shade, is a pretty abundant mineral, being found accompanying other vein stuff in many of the localities where galena and zinc occur. It also occurs in distinct veins free from other minerals, but usually discolored. Large blocks of pure white sulphate of baryta come from Labrador. Earthy materials, such as yellow, red, brown and various other shades of ochres, are abundant throughout the lower carboniferous deposits. These, mixed with oil, make fairly good substitutes for paints, and are often used by the inhabitants. Red ochres, resulting from the decomposition of iron ores, are met with on every side of the island; and it is this material the aboriginal inhabitants (The Red Indians of Newfoundland), made such extensive use of, and from which they derived their appellation. Not only their persons and clothing, but every implement, weapon, culinary utensil, or orna-