

the bowels of the earth, as marble, lime-stone, and chalk, which differ only in the degree of purity, or mode of concretion.

It is often found in veins, filling up the rents or cavities of mountains, and is called calcareous spar; some of which contain a quantity of this earth, but not in a pure state: some are perfectly transparent; and from being found in Iceland, are called Iceland crystals.

The matter with which vegetable and animal substances are incrusted, or penetrated by the waters of particular springs, so as to retain their external form, but lose their nature, and become stone, is generally of this kind; and shews that this earth is capable of being dissolved by water, and being introduced into the texture of animal and vegetable substances. This earth also produces the large and pendulous columns and cones that are found hanging from the roofs of large caves, as in Derbyshire.

The stoney shells of all crustaceous animals, from the coarsest, to the coral and pearl, are composed of this earth, and a small quantity of animal glue. A viscid fluid proceeds from the surface of the animal, which becomes a tough membrane, and gradually hardens into this form. The shells of all kinds of animals, together with all coralline concretions, consist of the calcareous earth, united with a small proportion of animal glue.

Marl is an alkaline earth, but cannot be converted to quick lime: it is composed of calcareous earth and clay: and its value, as a manure, is estimated in proportion to the quantity of calcareous earth which it contains. Marls assume a variety of colours, but are properly divided into shell and stone marl.

Shell marl is composed of the shells of shell-fish, or other aquatic animals, which are sometimes entire, and often decayed, or mixed with other earthy substances.

Examining this matter, as occurring in different places, it may be distinguished into fresh-water marl and the marl of sea-shells. The first is composed of a small fresh-water wick or snail: this animal, when alive, is not easily discoverable, the shell being much of the same colour as the stones covered with the water: but great numbers of them are to be found in many small brooks,
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