on the side facing the sea, the wonderful white marbles approaching within two kilometres of Carrara. These, he says, consist of stratified beds, at times visible, but more generally obliterated, resting on compact limestone of a dark colour, and without any traces of a crystalline grain. These stratified beds are covered by pre-paleozoic mica- and talc-schists. The lower series of marbles are generally of a bluish colour, and are called 'Bardigli'. Above these, Jervis continues, come the statuary and ordinary white marbles of general use in architecture, for decoration of various kinds and public monuments, and the white marbles with lead-grey veinings employed for interior work. The breccias and policrome conglomerates of bright colours, chiefly composed of fragments and pebbles of white crystalline marble with a red or purple ferruginous cement called 'Pavonazzi'[1] and 'Mischi'[2], are described by some geologists as beneath the ordinary white and statuary marbles in stratigraphical order, but Jervis believes these to be undoubtedly posterior, and says they contain fragments of metamorphized crystalline marble clearly showing their antiquity. The geological age of the Apuan Alps has given rise to more discussions than that of any other group of mountains. Some geologists consider them to be of very ancient origin, pre-paleozoic, others paleozoic, and others again lower mesozoic.

Jervis attributes the short duration of the white crystalline marbles when exposed to the atmosphere to the presence of carbonate of magnesia.

The most celebrated of all the quarries of Carrara is that of Polvaccio, which for almost two thousand

[1] From *pavonazzo*, purple.

[2] From *mischio*, mixture, referring to the mixed colouring of the marble.