

which have only changed the direction of their strike." *Gæa Norvegica* I, 375.

The landscape features in the gneiss region vary much. We find in it sometimes tame hills, flat undulating plateaux, in which only the valleys cut into it, have exposed more rugged forms; but sometimes we find zigzag ridges, sharp peaks, and other remarkable mountain shapes. In the gneiss districts of the south, long-drawn, broad massive mountain ridges are most common, but on the north-west coast, the gneiss rises in rugged and fantastic forms above the surface of the water, in the numerous and intricate fiords of that region.

The mineral deposits of these districts are neither few nor uninteresting. Some of these are worked, and produce silver, copper, cobalt, nickel and iron, while others capable of yielding some of these metals or other minerals, remain unwrought or undeveloped. Foremost among the modes of occurrence of metals in this region, must be noticed the so-called *fahlbands*. These are not exclusively confined to the south of the *Fields* which run north-eastward across Norway at its broadest part, but it is there, and especially in the district of Buskerud, that they have experienced their greatest development. From a point to the west of Kongsberg, and near the junction with the so-called Tellemarken group, afterwards to be described, north-eastward to Tyrifjord, or to where the gneiss formation in Modum is overlaid by Silurian strata, there occurs a series of parallel zones of rock, having the same strike and dip as the rocks enclosing them, but distinguishable from these by the decomposed appearance and reddish-brown color which they present on the surface. This peculiar appearance, to which, according to Böbert, they owe their distinguishing name (from *fahl* or *faul*, rotten, as the German miners, who first were employed in their exploration, termed them,) is attributable to the metallic sulphurets which they contain, and especially to iron pyrites; the ferric oxide and the sulphates produced in the oxidation of this being the coloring and decomposing agents. The quantity of metallic sulphurets necessary to produce this coloring and decomposing effect, is exceedingly small, and indeed it is sometimes scarcely possible to distinguish them, so finely disseminated are they through the mass of the rock constituting the *fahlband*. The sulphurets most generally present are common and magnetic iron pyrites, and copper pyrites; although blende and galena have both been mentioned as impregnating materials,