## GLOSSARY

## OF GEOLOGICAL AND OTHER SCIENTIFIC TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT.

## (FROM LYELL'S PRINCIPLES OF GEOLOGY.)

ALGE. An order or division of the cryptogamic class of plants. The whole of the sca-weeds are comprehended under this division, and the application of the term in this work is to marine plants. *Elym., alga*, sea-weed. ALLUVIAL. The adjective of alluvium, which see. ALLUVIAL Earth, sand, gravel, stones, and other transported matter which has been washed away and thrown down by rivers, floods or other causes, upon land not primanntly submerged beneath the waters of lakes or seas. *Elym., aluo* to we be upon to wach upon.

AMORPHOUS. Bodies devoid of regular form.

One of the forms of the Trap rocks, in which agates and simple AMYODALOID. minerals appear to be scattered like almonds in a cake.

ANTHRACITE. A shining substance like black lead : a species of mineral charcoal.

ANTICLINAL AXIS. If a range of hills, or a valley, be composed of strata, which on the two sides dip in opposite directions, the imaginary line that lies between them, towards which the strate on each side rise, is called the anti-clinal axis. In a row of houses with steep roofs facing the south, the slates represent inclined strate. dipping north and south, and the ridge is an east and west anticinal axis. ABENACEOUS. Sandy. Etym., arena, sand.

ARGILLACEOUS. Clayey, composed of clay. Etym., argilla, clay.

AUGITE. A simple mineral of a dark green, or black colour, which forms a constituent part of many varieties of volcanic rocks.

- BASALT. One of the most common varieties of the Trap-rocks. It is a dark green or black stone, composed of augite and felspar, very compact in texture, and of considerable hardness, often found in regular pillars of three or more sides, called basaltic columns. Remarkable examples of this kind are seen at the Giant's Causeway, in Ireland, and at Fingal's Cave, in Staffa, one of the Hebrides. The term is used by Pliny, and is said to come from basal, an Æthiopian word signifying iron. The rock often contains much iron.
- BITUMEN. Mineral pitch, of which the tar-like substance which is often seen to ooze out of the Newcastle coal when on the fire, and which makes it cake, is a good example. Etym., bitumen, pitch.

BITUMINOUS SHALE. An argillaceous shale, much impregnated with bitumen, which is very common in the coal measures

BOULDERS. A provincial term for large rounded blocks of stone lying on the surface of the ground, or sometimes imhedded in loose soil, different in composition from the

rocks in their vicinity, and which have been therefore transported from a distance. BRECCIA. A rock composed of angular fragments connected together by lime or other mineral substance. An Italian term.

CALCAREOUS ROCK. Limestone. Etym., calx, lime. CALCAREOUS SPAR. Crystallized carbonate of lime.

- CALCEDONY. A siliceous simple mineral, uncrystallized. Agates are partly composed of calcedony.
- ABBONATE OF LIME. Lime combines with great avidity with carbonic acid, a gaseous acid only obtained fluid when united with water,—and all combinations of it with other substances are called *Carbonates*. All limestones are carbonates of lime, and quick lime is obtained by driving off the carbonic acid by heat. CARBONATE OF LIME.

CARBONIFEROUS. A term usually applied, in a technical sense, to an ancient group of secondary strata; but any hed containing coal may be said to be carboniferous. Etym., carbo, coal, and fero, to bear.

CHERT. A silicious mineral, nearly allied to calcedony and flint, but less homogeneous and simple in texture. A gradual passage from chert to limestone is not uncommon.

CLINKSTONE, called also phonolite, a felspathic rock of the Trap family, usually fis-

sile. It is sonorous when struck with a hammer, whence its name. COAL FORMATION. This term is generally understood to mean the same as the Coal Measures. There are, however, "coal formations" in all the geological periods, wherever any of the varieties of coal forms a principal constituent part of a group of strata.

GIST.

16

n, er.

₹i-

of

ns ser

ınraast, ins. im-

em.

and

any

and

iselv

the