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THE MINERAL WATERS.

The mineral waters of Canada without exception issue from the unaltered palaeozoic rocks, and offer from their number and their various composition a very interesting subject of investigation. The annual reports of the geological commission give the analysis, by Mr. Sterry Hunt, of fifty-nine springs, of which fifty-four are more or less saline, and may be divided into two classes: the neutral waters which contain besides salts of soda, chlorides of calcium and magnesia, and the alkaline waters holding carbonate of soda. Both of these classes contain with but few exceptions, bromides and iodides in small quantities, as well as bicarbonate of lime and magnesia, often in great abundance. In those springs which do not contain sulphates, salts of baryta and strontia are constantly met with, and small traces of oxyds of iron and mangauese are never wanting. In some of the neutral salines the quantities of chlorides of magnesia and calcium are so considerable that the waters are very bitter, but others, which contain less of these salts are very agreable to the taste, and much frequented by invalids. In the report of the geological commission for 1853, there is a list of twenty springs of this class, containing, from four to thirty-six parts of solid matter in the thousand parts of water. Among these springs the best known are Saint-Lèon, Caxton, Plantagenet, Lanoraie, and Point-du-Jour, but others equally good are found at Nicolet, St. Geneviève and elsewhere. The quantities of bromides and iodides, and the salts of baryta and strontia contained in several of these springs give them valuable medicinal properties.

In the report already cited there is also a list of cighteen alkaline springs, of which twelve furnish from two to twelve parts of solid matter to the thousand of water. Among these twelve there are nine which contain salts of baryta and strontia, these two bases being almost always associated. In the more saline of these, the quantity of carbonate of soda is relatively small, being equal to from one to twelve hundredths of the total weight of soda salts, while in the weaker waters it rises to fifty and even eighty-hundredths. The greater number of these waters contain small quantities of borate of soda, which is included with the carbonate in the numbers which