

little care, one or two of them can be broken out free from quartz and other minerals.

In order to make sure that the specimens thus obtained are feldspar, try their hardness both with the knife and on glass. Feldspar of various colors is found, and a few minerals resemble it rather closely in general appearance. They can usually be distinguished from it by simple tests. Some of them are, for instance, much harder, and others softer. Note the character of the surfaces of your feldspar specimens. Break one specimen. Are the surfaces of the resulting fragments similar to those of the specimen broken?

If one cannot find mica in large enough flakes in boulders, so that specimens a half-inch or more in diameter can be broken out, he can obtain a specimen in a hardware store or tinshop, where the mineral is used for stove fronts. Mica is also employed as an insulator in electrical works. Split a thin sheet off a specimen with a knife blade. Is the sheet flexible?

Quartz is the only constant or essential constituent of granite. One or both micas are wanting in some varieties, but feldspar is rarely absent. In certain not uncommon kinds of the rock, other minerals are present in considerable quantities. It is thus seen that this rock, unlike a mineral, does not possess, theoretically, a definite chemical composition. It is a mixture of grains of minerals in varying proportions.

Syenite.—In hunting for specimens of granite among boulders, you will frequently see representatives of another rock which at first sight you will probably mistake for granite. This rock is called syenite. While it contains feldspar—frequently pink in color—and other minerals similar to those found in granite, quartz is not one of the essential constituents. In other words, syenite may be considered to be a quartzless granite. One should be careful not to mistake grains of white or gray feldspar for quartz.