

GRAPHITE OR PLUMBAGO.—Graphite (erroneously called black lead), is, when unmixed, pure carbon ; it is familiar to all as the material from which lead-pencils are made, and as stove-blackening ; it is one of the commonest of the Laurentian minerals and is found disseminated in most of the rocks ; also, in an impure state in beds ; the most valuable deposits are veins ; it is found in the phosphate band, but only in small quantities ; the graphite band underlies the phosphate band, and where one of these two minerals is found, there is but small hopes of finding the other in any considerable quantity.

CALCITE OR CARBONATE OF LIME.—Calcite often resembles feldspar, but is cleavable in three directions, and soft enough to be cut with a knife ; colorless crystals sometimes resemble those of quartz, but are distinguished by their softness ; in a rock form it is the common limestone ; white or grey crystalline limestone is one of the most common rocks in the Laurentian formation, but is generally scarce near valuable phosphate deposits ; all limestones dissolve with brisk effervescence in cold nitric or hydrochloric acids. Veins of calcite or calcareous spar sometimes carry copper ore.

DOLOMITE.—Dolomite is distinguished from limestone, which it much resembles by not dissolving so readily in acids, except the solution is heated ; it is an impure limestone containing magnesium.

HEAVY SPAR, OR BARYTES, is a very heavy mineral, generally white and much resembles feldspar in appearance, from which it is, however, easily distinguished, owing to its being heavier and softer ; it is largely used in manufacturing white paint, and was at one time of considerable value, but has lately so much depreciated in price that it could hardly be mined with profit ; it is often found in the veins of the Laurentian formation, sometimes carrying lead ore.

FLUOR SPAR, considerably harder and heavier than calcite, but does not scratch glass ; color generally green and sometimes yellow, rarely red ; it is of some value for manufacturing purposes.

PHOSPHATE OR PHOSPHATE OF LIME.—This mineral is never hard enough to scratch glass, and is considerably heavier than limestone ; the color is generally sea green or bluish green,