

- CALCEDONY.** A siliceous, simple mineral, uncrystallized. Agates are partly composed of calcedony.
- CARBONATE 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.
- CARBONIFEROUS.** A term usually applied, in a technical sense, to an ancient group of secondary strata; but any bed containing coal may be said to be carboniferous. *Etym.*, *carbo*, coal, and *fero*, to bear.
- CHERT.** A siliceous 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 fissile. 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.
- CONFORMABLE.** When the planes of one set of strata are generally parallel to those of another set which are in contact, they are said to be conformable.
- CONGLOMERATE, OR PUDDINGSTONE.** Rounded water-worn fragments of rock or pebbles, cemented together by another mineral substance, which may be of a siliceous, calcareous, or argillaceous nature. *Etym.*, *con*, together, *glomero*, to heap.
- CONIFERÆ.** An order of plants which, like the fir and pine, bear cones or tops in which the seeds are contained. *Etym.*, *conus*, cone, and *fero*, to bear.
- CRATER.** The circular cavity at the summit of a volcano, from which the volcanic matter is ejected. *Etym.*, *crater*, a great cup or bowl.
- CROP OUT.** A miner's or mineral surveyor's term, to express the rising up or exposure at the surface of a stratum or series of strata.
- CRUSTACEA.** Animals having a shelly coating or crust which they cast periodically. Crabs, shrimps and lobsters, are examples.
- CRYSTALLIZED.** A mineral which is found in regular forms or crystals is said to be crystallized.
- CRYSTALLINE.** The internal texture which regular crystals exhibit when broken, or a confused assemblage of ill-defined crystals. Loaf-sugar and statuary-marble have a *crystalline* texture. Sugar-candy and calcareous spar are crystallized.
- DEBRIS.** A term applied to the fragments or remains of disintegrated rocks.
- DEBRITUS.** See "Debris."
- DELTA.** When a great river, before it enters the sea, divides into separate streams, they often diverge and form two sides of a triangle, the sea being the base. The land included by the three lines, and which is invariably alluvial, was first called, in the case of the Nile, a delta, from its resemblance to the letter of the Greek alphabet which goes by that name. Geologists apply the term to alluvial land formed by a river at its mouth, without reference to its precise shape.
- DENUDATION.** The carrying away, by the action of running water, of a portion of the solid materials of the land, by which inferior rocks are laid bare. *Etym.*, *denudo*, to lay bare.
- DIKES.** When a mass of the unstratified or igneous rocks, such as granite, trap and lava, appears as if injected into a great rent in the stratified rocks, cutting across the strata, it forms a dike; and as they are sometimes seen running along the ground, and projecting, like a wall, from the softer strata on both sides of them having wasted away, they are called, in the north of England and in Scotland, *dikes*, the provincial name for wall. It is not easy to draw the line between dikes and veins. The former are generally of larger dimensions, and have their sides parallel for considerable distances; while veins have generally many ramifications, and these often thin away into slender threads.
- DILUVIUM.** Those accumulations of gravel and loose materials which, by some geologists, are said to have been produced by the action of a diluvian wave or deluge sweeping over the surface of the earth. *Etym.*, *diluvium*, deluge.
- DIP.** When a stratum does not lie horizontally, but is inclined, it is said to dip towards some point of the compass, and the angle it makes with the horizon is called the angle of dip or inclination.
- EARTH'S CRUST.** Such superficial parts of our planet as are accessible to human observation.
- ESCARPMENT.** The abrupt face of a ridge of highland. *Etym.*, *escarper*, French, to cut steep.
- ESTUARIES.** Inlets of the land, which are entered both by rivers and the tides of the sea. Thus we have the estuaries of the Thames, Severn, Tay, &c. *Etym.*, *æstus*, the tide.