

According to Townsend it is sometimes called *Wood-sowerland*, because, although it is productive of the finest elm, oak, and ash timber, it requires chalking before it can produce good corn. (G. Notes.)

Barren as this clay naturally is, it is rendered by prodigality of manure in the neighbourhood of the metropolis, excellent garden ground. (G. Notes.)

On Epping Forest, most of Windsor Forest, and much of the New Forest, the oaks are finest where the clay is intermixed with the sand lying above and below it. (G. Notes.)

The surface of the vegetable mould does not however in most cases rest immediately upon the London clay, but upon beds of rich marles and loams, which often alternate with gravel and sand, and sometimes to the depth of 30 or 40 feet.

(i) *Phænomena of water and springs.* This clay is so extremely dense, as to be almost impervious to water. Hence but few springs issue immediately from the stratum itself, and whenever these are found, the water is impure owing to its containing salts, which render it hard, and unfit for domestic purposes: the pyrites which in some places abounds in this clay, undoubtedly contributes, by its decomposition, to render the water impure.

The late Mr. Tennant is said to have noticed the existence of sulphate of magnesia in the London clay. It has not however been ascertained whether the springs of Epsom in Surrey, which arise from some of the strata above the chalk, arise from this stratum. (G. T. vol. ii. p. 138.) Many other localities are mentioned by the writers on mineral waters, in which this formation is said to yield springs impregnated with the same salt, viz. Bagnigge-wells, St. George's-fields, Kilburn, Kensington, Pancras, and Richmond; these springs must in all probability rise from the London clay, being situated far within its boundary. The position of the following, being near the border of the formation, render their source more doubtful; Acton (Middlesex), Barnet (Herts), Brentwood, Upminster, and Colchester (Essex), Dulwich, Streatham, (Surrey). Muriate of soda is said also to be contained in some of these springs. It is probable however that they have never been correctly analysed; but these indications imperfect as they are, deserve notice. (C.)

The dense nature of this stratum is of vast importance to the metropolis and its vicinity. The alluvium covering the surface of this clay is full of water, and the quantity daily drawn from it alone in the metropolis itself is almost incredibly great. Many of the wells furnishing to the inhabitants a plentiful supply of remarkably limpid but somewhat hard water, drawn by the public pumps, are not deeper than the alluvium; which also furnishes,