

ment, although we cannot accurately ascertain it, yet we can to a certain extent point out its effects.

DEPOSITES UNDER THE WATERS.

Lakes, ponds, marshes, and sea-ports into which streams flow, particularly when issuing from neighbouring and rugged hills, deposite at their bottom shoals of mud, which would in time choak them up, if constant care was not taken to cleanse them; the sea also leaves in harbours, creeks, and all parts where its waters are most calm, mud and sediment. Currents are formed amongst these deposites, or throw upon them the sand which they collect from the sea; and thus are shoals and shallows made.

STALACTITES.

Certain waters, after depositing the calcareous substances, by means of the superabundant carbonic acid with which they are impregnated, become crystallized when the acid has evaporated, and form stalactites and other concretions. There are mingled crystallized layers in soft water, sufficiently extensive to be compared with some of those left by the ancient sea. Every one knows the famous Travertine quarries in the vicinity of Rome, and the rocks of this stone which the river Teverona accumulates and produces, perpetually varying in form. Its twofold action may be thus accounted for: the accumulated deposites of the sea may become hardened by stalactites; when, perhaps, springs replete with calcareous matter, or containing some other substance in solution, fall into the places where these