

boulders and masses of sandstone, which are abundant in some of the chalk valleys and on the flanks of the Downs, are called Sarsden-stone, or Druid sandstone, from being the principal material employed in the construction of Stonehenge, and other Druidical monuments; they are supposed to have been derived from the sand-beds, which overlie the London clay in the places above named; they may, however, have belonged to the sands which lie between the clay and chalk. The wastes and unproductive heaths around the metropolis, are sites of these arenaceous deposits, which also form the subsoil of that charming and picturesque spot, Hampstead Heath. The gravel and shingle, associated with the sands, have unquestionably been derived from the ruins of the chalk formation.

22. ARTESIAN WELLS.—As from the alternation of porous, arenaceous strata, with stiff or impervious beds of clay, the artificial perennial fountains, called Artesian wells, are of frequent occurrence in the vicinity of the metropolis, I will in this place offer a few remarks on the phenomena of springs. The descent of moisture from the atmosphere upon the earth, and its escape into the basin of the ocean, by the agency of streams and rivers, were noticed in the first lecture. The rain falling on a gravelly or porous soil, will, of course, descend through it, till its progress is arrested by a clayey or impervious stratum, which will thus form a natural tank or reservoir, collect the water, and a subter-