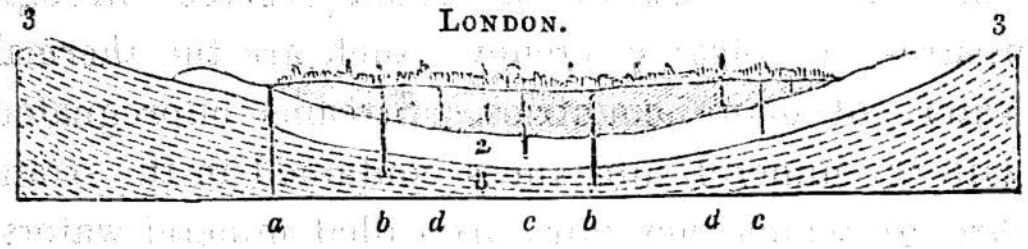
of clay, through which it cannot escape. If this bed of clay be penetrated, either by natural or artificial means, the water must necessarily rise to the surface, and may be even thrown up in a jet to an altitude which will depend on the level of the fluid in the subterranean reservoir; such is the phenomenon observable in the Artesian wells around London. Argillaceous strata are generally found to be dry within; and the blue clay confines the water contained in the sands beneath; the engineer perforates the clay, introduces tubes, and taps the natural tank; by this method, the perennial fountains of Tooting, Hammersmith, Fulham, &c. have been obtained.* The wells sunk into the London




Tab. 35.—Plan of the Artesian wells near London.

1. The London clay. 2. Plastic clay and sand. 3. The chalk.

clay (Tab. 35, 1, *d*, *d*,) yield no water; but the sandy strata alternating with the clays, afford a supply, the quantity and quality of which depend on the nature of the rock. The borings, which reach

* Consult Dr. Buckland's Bridgewater Essay, p. 561; and an admirable Essay on Artesian Wells, in that excellent scientific periodical, the Mining Journal, conducted by H. English, Esq., F.G.S.