in Skiddaw, and in Snowdon in Wales. Their geographical distribution over Europe and America is of vast extent. This system abounds in metalliferous veins. The position of the gneiss, in relation to granite, and the slate rocks, is seen in this section (Pl. IX. fig. 2).

10. UNSTRATIFIED METAMORPHIC ROCKS — GRANITE. (Pl. VII. fig. 18; Pl. IX. fig. 2; Pl. X.) —The unstratified crystalline rock, *Granite* (so named from its granular structure), constitutes the foundation upon which all the strata of which we have spoken are spread out, and the great framework of the earth's crust, rising to the loftiest heights, and stretching into mountain chains, which mark the grand, natural divisions of the physical geography of the globe.

Although presenting great variety in the proportion and colour of its ingredients, granite is essentially composed of three substances, which are easily recognised in the blocks of which our pavements, bridges, and other works, are constructed. These are *mica*, known by its silvery or glittering aspect; *quartz*, by its glassy appearance; and *felspar*, which forms the opaque white, pink, or yellowish masses, oftentimes seen in sections, as long angular crystals, which from their size and colour constitute so striking a feature, as to be readily detected, even by the unscientific observer. In some granite rocks, *talc* and *hornblende* occur, and the mica is wanting; these are called *sienite*, or