

- ORTHO CERATA** or **ORTHO CERÆ**. An extinct genus of the order of molluscous animals, called Cephalopoda, that inhabited a long-chambered conical shell, like a straight horn. *Etym.*, *ορθος*, *orthos*, straight, and *κερας*, *ceras*, horn.
- OSSEOUS BRECCIA**. The cemented mass of fragments of bones of extinct animals found in caverns and fissures. *Osseus* is a Latin adjective, signifying bony.
- OSTEOLOGY**. That division of anatomy which treats of the bones; from *οστεον*, *osteon*, bone, and *λογος*, *logos*, a discourse.
- OUTLIERS**. When a portion of a stratum occurs at some distance, detached from the general mass of the formation to which it belongs, some practical mineral surveyors call it an *outlier*, and the term is adopted in geological language.
- OVATE**. The shape of an egg. *Etym.*, *ovum*, egg.
- OVIPOSITING**. The laying of eggs.
- OXIDE**. The combination of a metal with oxygen; rust is oxide of iron.
- OXYGEN**. One of the constituent parts of the air of the atmosphere; that part which supports life. For a farther explanation of the word, consult elementary works on chemistry.
- PACHYDERMATA**. An order of quadrupeds, including the elephant, rhinoceros, horse, pig, &c., distinguished by having thick skins. *Etym.*, *παχυσ*, *pachus*, thick, and *δερμα*, *derma*, skin, or hide.
- PACHYDERMATOUS**. Belonging to Pachydermata.
- PALEOTHERIUM**, **PALEOTHERE**. A fossil extinct quadruped, belonging to the order Pachydermata, resembling a pig, or tapir, but of great size. *Etym.*, *παλαιος*, *palaios*, ancient, and *θηριον*, *therion*, wild beast.
- PALEONTOLOGY**. The science which treats of fossil remains, both animal and vegetable. *Etym.*, *παλαιος*, *palaios*, ancient, *οντα*, *onta*, beings, and *λογος*, *logos*, a discourse.
- PELAGIAN**, **PELAGIC**. Belonging to the deep sea. *Etym.*, *pelagus*, sea.
- PEPERINO**. An Italian name for a particular kind of volcanic rock, formed like tuff, by the cementing together of volcanic sand, cinders, or scorix, &c.
- PETROLEUM**. A liquid mineral pitch, so called because it is seen to ooze like oil out of the rock. *Etym.*, *petra*, rock, and *oleum*, oil.
- PHÆNOGAMOUS** or **PHANEROGAMIC PLANTS**. A name given by Linnæus to those plants in which the reproductive organs are apparent. *Etym.*, *φανερως*, *phaneros*, evident, or *φαινω*, *phaino*, to show, and *γαμος*, *gamos*, marriage.
- PHLEGREAN FIELDS**. *Campi Phlegræi*, or "the Burnt Fields." The country around Naples, so named by the Greeks, from the traces of igneous action every where visible.
- PHONOLITE**. See "Clinkstone."
- PHRYGANEÆ**. A genus of four-winged insects, the larvæ of which, called caddis-worms, are used by anglers as a bait.
- PHYSICS**. The department of science which treats of the properties of natural bodies, laws of motion, &c.; sometimes called natural philosophy and mechanical philosophy. *Etym.*, *φυσις*, *physis*, nature.
- PHYTOLOGY**, **PHYTOLOGICAL**. The department of science which relates to plants—synonymous with botany and botanical. *Etym.*, *φυτον*, *phyton*, plant, and *λογος*, *logos*, discourse.
- PHYTOPHAGOUS**. Plant-eating. *Etym.*, *φυτον*, *phyton*, plant, and *φαγειν*, *phagein*, to eat.
- PISOLITE**. A stone possessing a structure like an agglutination of pease. *Etym.*, *πισον*, *pison*, pea, and *λιθος*, *lithos*, stone.
- PISTIA**. P. 618. The plant mentioned by Malte-Brun is probably the *Pistia Stratiotes*, a floating plant, related to English duckweed, but very much larger.
- PIT COAL**. Ordinary coal; called so, because it is obtained by sinking pits in the ground.
- PITCHSTONE**. A rock of a uniform texture, belonging to the unstratified and volcanic classes, which has an unctuous appearance like indurated pitch.
- PLASTIC CLAY**. One of the beds of the Eocene Tertiary Period; so called, because it is used for making pottery. The formation to which this name is applied is a series of beds chiefly sands, with which the clay is associated. *Etym.*, *πλασσω*, *plasso*, to form or fashion.
- PLESIOSAURUS**. A fossil extinct amphibious animal, resembling the saurian, or