curring most abundantly in nature, and entering very largely into the composition of rocks; never, like lime, constitutes masses of great extent, in the same simple state of combination; that is to say, there are no mountains of magnesia; as there are of chalk and of limestone. Magnesia, even more decidedly than the three preceding mineral substances, seems to be necessary to the existence of organized beings; as there does not appear to be one, in which traces of this earth are not met with, generally associated with phosphorus. Its uses, however, are less obvious than those of the three other substances, and indeed may be said to be unknown: though there is reason to believe, that it is most intimately connected with the vital operations of organized beings.

(29) *Strontium*, and (30) *Baryum*, the metallic bases of the two alkaline earths, *strontia*, and *baryta*, are allied to calcium and magnesium in some of their properties; but differ exceedingly from them in others. Their combinations with oxygen exhibit still more decidedly alkaline powers, than those of either calcium, or magnesium; and in consequence, like them, they only exist in various states of combination; and most usually, with carbon and oxygen; or with sulfur and oxygen. Compared with lime and magnesia, strontia and baryta exist but sparingly; and neither of them has any thing to do with