

metallic state, and in various states of combination. It has a reddish white colour; a lamelated brittle texture; and is easily fusible. Bismuth is not a very abundant metal; nor is it much employed.

(46) *Copper*, occurs in nature in the metallic state; but much more frequently mineralized, especially with sulfur. The valuable properties of copper, both in its pure and mixed state, render it of considerable importance; and it is, in consequence, much employed in the arts. With zinc, it constitutes *brass*; with tin, *bell-metal*; both well-known compounds. Copper has been lately said to exist in very minute quantities in organic nature; but whether as an accidental, or as an essential ingredient, is not known. The compounds of copper are poisonous; but these poisonous properties, like the poisonous properties of lead, can be easily obviated, and guarded against.

(47) *Mercury*. This well-known fluid metal occurs in the metallic state; but more frequently mineralized, especially with sulfur. Its importance in the arts, and as a medicinal agent, need scarcely be mentioned here. The fluidity of mercury, presents a beautiful instance of the endless diversity of nature; and adds much to its importance, and usefulness. Mercury exists in considerable abundance; though much less