(*h*) *Agricultural character.* The Cornbrash, says Mr. Smith, is chiefly an arable superior in quality to much of the Stonebrash hills; and, when otherwise appropriated to pasture, produces grass of a good quality. Indeed the mixture of calcareous, argillaceous, and arenaceous beds, in this part of the series, is favorable to their agricultural quality. The general course of the forest marble through the Cotteswold district, is said to be distinguished by the prevalence of timber trees, woods, and pasture. The soil over the great oolite is a loose stonebrash, absorbent, and any thing but rich; it is said however to answer fairly for turnips, and tolerably for wheat; but it never averages half the value of the subjacent sandy soils.

(*i*) *Phœnomena of water.* The clays underlying the cornbrash and the forest marble generally hold up the water beneath these strata, so that this indispensable article may be readily procured; hence a more dense population (as Mr. Smith has very ingeniously remarked) distinguishes the course of these beds from the great oolite, where water can be obtained only in deep wells and at a great expense. These wells have often been sunk 130 feet through the rock to its junction with the fullers' earth, which throws out its springs and forms a weeping ground round the escarpments of the oolitic hills, as may be particularly noticed near Bath. Occasionally even the springs of the upper beds sink through this rock also, in consequence of some failure in the intervening clay; this is particularly the case in the forest marble, which has numerous swallow-holes, thus absorbing the springs of the cornbrash; thirty of these may be noticed in the space of half a mile round Hinton.

It is probable that the cornbrash or forest marble may be the true seat of the mineral waters found in sinking through the Oxford clay, and enumerated in treating on that formation. If the Pickering hills in Yorkshire really belong to this part of the series, the curious phœnomena of the several branches of the Rye near Helmsly, which flow through that escarpment by subterraneous channels, should be here noticed.