Sometimes, the ore extends in a compact mass, from one side of the vein to the other; but, not unfrequently, there are hollow spaces in veins, called *druses*, which are lined with crystals; in these cavities, the most beautiful and regular crystalline forms are obtained. Metallic veins, often, divide and unite again, and, sometimes, they separate into a number of smaller branches, called *strings*. A general idea of the different modes in which metallic veins intersect rocks, and are sometimes intersected by each other, is represented in Plate IV. fig. 4.

To what depth metallic veins descend, is not known, nor is it ascertained, whether they generally grow wider or narrower in their descent. The opinions of miners on this subject are so various, that it may fairly be inferred, that veins differ, in this respect, in different situations. No instances, I believe, have occurred of a vein being absolutely worked-out in depth, though it often grows too poor to repay the labour of working deeper: more frequently, the further descent of the miner is stopped, by the difficulty or expense of removing the water. Veins are seldom rich in ore near the surface, but increase in richness as they descend, and at greater depths become poorer again. When Pryce wrote the "Mineralogy of Cornwall," it was believed that the richest state of a mine for copper in that county, was from eighty to one hundred yards deep; and for tin, from forty to one hundred and twenty yards. This account by no means agrees with the present state of the Cornish mines. Copper and tin are procured in considerable quantities at the depth of four hundred and fifty-six yards, in the Dolcoath mine. The Ecton copper mine, in Staffordshire, is now worked at the depth of four hundred and seventy-two yards: it is the deepest mine in England. The deepest mine that has been worked in Europe, or in any part of the world, is one at Truttenberg, in Bohemia, which is one thousand yards below the surface.

Metallic veins frequently contain different ores at various depths. Iron ore, copper ore, cobalt ore, and silver ore, succeed each other in some of the mines in Saxony.

In France, there are mines which contain copper ore in the lowest part, silver ore above, and over that iron ore.

In Cornwall, blende, a sulphuret of zinc, frequently abounds in the upper part of veins that become rich in copper as they descend; the blende rarely continuing to any considerable depth. In the same district, tin is also commonly found at a small depth, in veins which afterwards prove rich in copper. "Among other instances that might be quoted, are the two deep extensive copper mines called Huel Unity, and Cook's Kitchen, both of which were at first worked for tin. In both, the tin was soon extracted; but it should be noted as an uncommon circumstance, that in the latter mine, after working to the depth of one hundred and eighty fathoms, first through tin, and afterwards through copper, tin was found again, and has continued