

GLOSSARY

OF GEOLOGICAL AND OTHER SCIENTIFIC TERMS USED IN THIS
WORK.

- ACEPHALOUS.** The Acephala are that division of molluscos animals which, like the oyster and scallop, are without heads. The class Acephala of Cuvier comprehends many genera of animals with bivalve shells, and a few which are devoid of shells. *Etym.*, α, α, without, and κεφαλη, *cephale*, the head.
- ACIDULOUS.** Slightly acid.
- ADIPOCIRE.** A substance apparently intermediate between fat and wax, into which dead animal matter is converted when buried in the earth, and in a certain stage of decomposition. *Etym.*, *adeps*, fat, and *cera*, wax.
- ALBITE.** See "Felspar."
- ALEMBIC.** An apparatus for distilling.
- ALGÆ.** An order or division of the cryptogamic class of plants. The whole of the sea-weeds are comprehended under this division, and the application of the term in this work is to marine plants. *Etym.*, *alga*, sea-weed.
- ALLUVIAL.** The adjective of alluvium, which see.
- ALLUVION.** Synonymous with alluvium, which see.
- ALLUVIUM.** Earth, sand, gravel, stones, and other transported matter which has been washed away and thrown down by rivers, floods, or other causes upon land not permanently submerged beneath the waters of lakes or seas. *Etym.*, *alluo*, to wash upon, or *alluvio*, an inundation.
- ALUM-STONE, ALUMEN, ALUMINOUS.** Alum is the base of pure clay, and strata of clay are often met with containing much iron-pyrites. When the latter substance decomposes, sulphuric acid is produced, which unites with the aluminous earth of the clay to form sulphate of alumine, or common alum. Where manufactories are established for obtaining the alum, the indurated beds of clay employed are called Alum-stone.
- AMMONITE.** An extinct and very numerous genus of the order of molluscos animals called Cephalopoda, allied to the modern genus Nautilus, which inhabited a chambered shell, curved like a coiled snake. Species of it are found in all geological periods of the secondary strata; but they have not been seen in the tertiary beds. They are named from their resemblance to the horns on the statues of Jupiter Ammon.
- AMORPHOUS.** Bodies devoid of regular form. *Etym.*, α, α, without, and μορφη, *morphe*, form.
- AMYGDALOID.** One of the forms of the Trap-rocks, in which agates and simple minerals appear to be scattered like almonds in a cake. *Etym.*, αμυγδαλα, *amygdala*, an almond.
- ANALCIME.** A simple mineral of the Zeolite family, also called Cubizite, of frequent occurrence in the Trap-rocks.
- ANALOGUE.** A body that resembles or corresponds with another body. A recent shell of the same species as a fossil shell is the analogue of the latter.
- ANOPLOTHERIUM.** A fossil extinct quadruped belonging to the order Pachydermata, resembling a pig. It has received its name because the animal must have been singularly wanting in means of defence, from the form of its teeth and the absence of claws, hoofs, and horns. *Etym.*, ανοπλος, *anoplos*, unarmed, and θηριον, *therion*, a wild beast.
- ANTAGONIST POWERS.** Two powers in nature, the action of the one counteracting that of the other, by which a kind of equilibrium or balance is maintained, and the destructive effect prevented that would be produced by one operating without a check.
- ANTENNÆ.** The articulated horns with which the heads of insects are invariably furnished.
- ANTHRACITE.** A shining substance like black-lead; a species of mineral charcoal. *Etym.*, ανθραξ, *anthrax*, coal.