

- ANTHRACOTHERIUM.** A name given to an extinct quadruped, supposed to belong to the Pachydermata, the bones of which were first found in lignite and coal of the tertiary strata. *Etym.*, *ανθραξ*, *anthrax*, coal, and *θηριον*, *therion*, wild beast.
- ANTHROPOMORPHOUS.** Having a form resembling the human. *Etym.*, *ανθρωπος*, *anthropos*, a man, and *μορφη*, *morphe*, form.
- ANTISEPTIC.** Substances which prevent corruption in animal and vegetable matter, as common salt does, are said to be antiseptic. *Etym.*, *αντι*, *anti*, against, and *σηπω*, *sepo*, to putrefy.
- ARENACEOUS.** Sandy. *Etym.*, *arena*, sand.
- ARGILLACEOUS.** Clayey, composed of clay. *Etym.*, *argilla*, clay.
- ARRAGONITE.** A simple mineral, a variety of carbonate of lime, so called from having been first found in Arragon, in Spain.
- ATOLLS.** Coral islands of an annular form, or consisting of a circular strip or ring of coral surrounding a central lagoon.
- AUGITE.** A simple mineral of a dark green, or black colour, which forms a constituent part of many varieties of volcanic rocks. Name applied by Pliny to a particular mineral, from the Greek *αυγη*, *auge*, lustre.
- AVALANCHES.** Masses of snow which, being detached from great heights in the Alps, acquire enormous bulk by fresh accumulations as they descend; and when they fall into the valleys below often cause great destruction. They are also called *lavanges* and *lavanches* in the dialects of Switzerland.
- BASALT.** One of the most common varieties of the Trap-rocks. It is a dark green or black stone, composed of augite and felspar, very compact in texture, and of considerable hardness, often found in regular pillars of three or more sides called basaltic columns. Remarkable examples of this kind are seen at the Giant's Causeway, in Ireland, and at Fingal's Cave, in Staffa, one of the Hebrides. The term is used by Pliny, and is said to come from *basal*, an Æthiopian word signifying iron. The rock often contains much iron.
- "BASIN" of Paris, "BASIN" of London.** Deposits lying in a hollow or trough, formed of older rocks; sometimes used in geology almost synonymously with "formations," to express the deposits lying in a certain cavity or depression in older rocks.
- BELEMNITE.** An extinct genus of the order of molluscous animals called Cephalopoda, having a long, straight, and chambered conical shell. *Etym.*, *βελεμνον*, *belemnion*, a dart.
- BITUMEN.** Mineral pitch, of which the tar-like substance which is often seen to ooze out of the Newcastle coal when on the fire, and which makes it cake, is a good example. *Etym.*, *bitumen*, pitch.
- BITUMINOUS SHALE.** An argillaceous shale, much impregnated with bitumen, which is very common in the Coal Measures.
- BLENDE.** A metallic ore, a compound of the metal zinc with sulphur. It is often found in brown shining crystals; hence its name among the German miners, from the word *blenden*, to dazzle.
- BLUFFS.** High banks presenting a precipitous front to the sea or a river. A term used in the United States of North America.
- BOTRYOIDAL.** Resembling a bunch of Grapes. *Etym.*, *βοτρυς*, *botrys*, a bunch of grapes, and *ειδος*, *eidos*, form.
- BOULDERS.** A provincial term for large rounded blocks of stone lying on the surface of the ground, or sometimes imbedded in loose soil, different in composition from the rocks in their vicinity, and which have been therefore transported from a distance.
- BRECCIA.** A rock composed of angular fragments connected together by lime or other mineral substance. An Italian term.
- CALC SINTER.** A German name for the deposits from springs holding carbonate of lime in solution—petrifying springs. *Etym.*, *halk*, lime, and *sintern*, to drop.
- CALCAIRE GROSSIER.** An extensive stratum, or rather series of strata, found in the Paris Basin, belonging to the Eocene tertiary period. *Etym.*, *calcaire*, limestone, and *grossier*, coarse.
- CALCAREOUS ROCK.** Limestone. *Etym.*, *calx*, lime.
- CALCAREOUS SPAR.** Crystallized carbonate of lime.