

Similar concretions abound in argillaceous iron ore, which is often disseminated in clay beds or shale. These nodules are usually made up of concentric coats of ore; but sometimes the slaty structure of the rock containing them extends through them, and organic relics are found to form their nucleus.

Fig. 25.

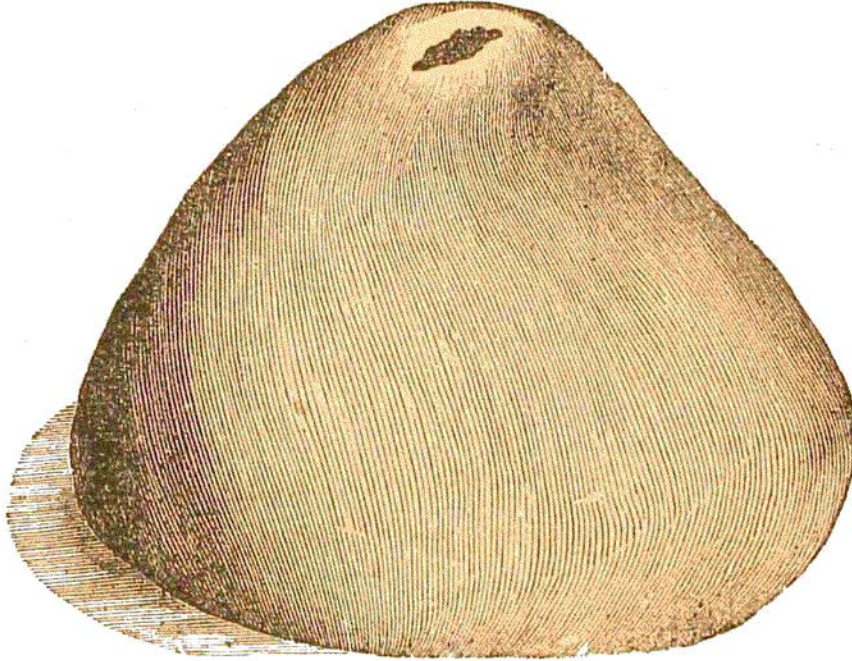
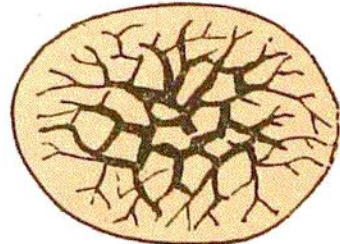


Fig. 25 is a concretion of iron ore with a nucleus of lignite, from Gay Head, in Massachusetts, 7 inches across.

The internal parts of these concretions of limestone and hydrate of iron often exhibit numerous cracks, which sometimes divide the matter into columnar masses, but more frequently into irregular shapes. When these cracks are filled with calcareous spar, as is often the case in calcareous concretions, they take the name of *ludus helmontii*, *turtle stones*, or more frequently of *septaria*. From these is prepared in England the famous Roman cement. Fig. 26 shows a section of one of these.

Fig. 26



Certain limestones called oolites, are often almost entirely composed of concretions made up of concentric layers; but the spheres are rarely so large as a pea.

The concretionary structure, however, often exists in limestone on a very large scale, forming spheroidal masses not only