fuller's earth occurs in beds among the Jurassic and Cretaceous formations. In Saxony it is found as a result of the decomposition of diabase and gabbro.

Wacke—a dirty-green to brownish-black, earthy or compact, but tender and apparently homogeneous clay, which arises as the ultimate stage of the decomposition of basaltrocks in situ.

Loam—an earthy mixture of clay and sand with more or less organic matter. The black soils of Russia, India, etc. (Tchernosem, Regur), are dark deposits of loam rich in organic matter, and sometimes upward of twenty feet deep.

Loess—a pale, somewhat calcareous clay, probably of winddrift origin, found in some river-valleys (Rhine, Danube, Mississippi, etc.), and over wide regions in China and elsewhere. It is described in Book III. Part. II. Sect. i. § 1.

Laterite—a cellular, reddish, ferruginous clay, found in some tropical countries as the result of the subaerial decomposition of rocks; it acquires great hardness after being quarried out and dried.

Till. Bowlder-clay—a stiff sandy and stony clay, varying in color and composition, according to the character of the rocks of the district in which it lies. It is full of worn stones of all sizes, up to blocks weighing several tons, and often well-smoothed and striated. It is a glacial deposit, and will be described among the formations of the Glacial Period.

Mudstone—a fine, usually more or less sandy, argillaceous rock, having no fissile character, and of somewhat greater hardness than any form of clay. The term Clay-rock has been applied by some writers to an indurated clay requiring to be ground and mixed with water before it acquires plasticity.

Shale (Schiste, Schieferthon)—a general term to describe clay that has assumed a thinly stratified or fissile structure. Under this term are included laminated and somewhat hardened argillaceous rocks, which are capable of being split along the lines of deposit into thin leaves. They present almost endless varieties of texture and composition, passing, on the one hand, into clays, or, where much indurated, into slates and argillaceous schists, on the other, into flagstones and sandstones, or again, through calcareous gradations into limestone, or through ferruginous varieties into clay-ironstone, and through bituminous kinds into coal.

Clay-slate (Schiste ardoise, Thonschiefer).—Under this name are included certain hard fissile argillaceous masses,