Concretions of silica occur in limestone of many geological ages (p. 829). The flints of the English Chalk are a familiar example, but similar siliceous concretions occur in Carboniferous and Cambrian limestones. The silica, in these cases, has not infrequently been deposited round organic bodies, such as sponges, sea-urchins, and mollusks, which are completely enveloped in it, and have even themselves been silicified. Iron-disulphide often assumes the form of concretions, more particularly among clay-rocks, and these, though presenting many eccentricities of shape -round, like pistol-shot or cannon-balls, kidney-shaped, botryoidal, etc.-agree in usually possessing an internal fibrous radiated structure. Phosphate of lime is found as concretions in formations where the coprolites and bones of reptiles and other animals have been collected together (see p. 827).

Concretions produced subsequently to the formation of the rock occur in some sandstones, which, when exposed to the weather, decompose into large round balls. In other instances, a ferruginous cement is gradually aggregated by percolating water in lines which curve round so as to inclose portions of the rock. These lines, owing to abstraction of iron from within the spheroid and partly from without, harden into dark crusts, inside of which the sandstone becomes quite bleached and soft.^o Some shales exhibit a concretionary structure in a still more striking manner, inasmuch as the concretions consist of the general mass of the laminated shale, and the lines of stratification pass through them and mark them out distinctly as superinduced upon the rock. Examples of this structure are not infrequent