

In each of these cases, the greater number of the species are the same that now live in stagnant fresh-water; some inhabit saline mineral waters, and a few live in the sea. The total number of fossil species observed is twenty-eight, fourteen of which agree with living fresh-water species of Infusoria, and five with living marine species. The other nine probably belong to living species not yet discovered. In each of these four localities one species preponderates largely over the rest, and in no two cases is it the same species. The Polierschiefer of Bilin occupies a surface of great extent, probably the site of an ancient lake, and forms slaty strata of fourteen feet in thickness, consisting almost entirely of an aggregation of the siliceous shields of *Gaillonella Distans*. The size of one of these is about $\frac{1}{288}$ of a line which is about $\frac{1}{6}$ of the thickness of a human hair, and nearly of the size of a globule of the human blood; about twenty-three millions of animals are contained in a cubic line of the Polierschiefer, and 41,000 millions in a cubic inch; a cubic inch of Polierschiefer weighs 220 grains, of the 41,000 millions of animals, 187 millions go to a grain, or the siliceous shield of each animalcule weighs about the $\frac{1}{187}$ millionth part of a grain. Siliceous remains of Infusoria have recently been found also in the Polierschiefer of Planitz and Cassel.

M. de Humboldt has recently communicated to the Academy of sciences at Paris (February 20, 1837) a letter from Professor Retzius of Stockholm, in which he informs Ehrenberg that a substance called Bergmehl, (*Farine de montagne*), analyzed and described by Berzelius, 1833, and found by him to contain Silice, animal matter, and crenic acid, is eaten in Lapland in seasons of scarcity, mixed with ground corn and bark, in the form of bread; in 1833 this occurred in the Commune of Degerfors. M. Retzius has discovered in this Bergmehl, nineteen species of Infusoria with siliceous shields. This deposit appears to be analogous to the Kieselguhr of Franzenbad.

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Ehrenberg has further ascertained that a soft yellow ochreous substance called Raseneisen, (Marsh Ochre, or Meadow Earth,) which is found in large quantities every spring in Marshes about Berlin, covering the bottom of ditches, and in the footsteps of ani-