

# MINERAL SYSTEM.

## CLASS II.

### FOSSIL SALTS.

THE saline substances included under this class, are those only which are found in a natural state: the numerous artificial salts detailed in some systems of mineralogy, are consequently excluded. The greater number of these natural salts appear to be formed by the agency of air, water, &c. and are therefore more properly atmospheric than terrestrial products. Natural rock salt is perhaps the only exception, it being found in the interior of the earth.

The characters by which the substances of this class are distinguished from those of the other classes, are principally their *taste* and *easy solubility*.

The different species resemble each other so much in many characters, that Werner, to avoid unnecessary repetition in description, uses the term *Saline Consistence* to express all those characters which have a reference to hardness, tenacity, and frangibility. Thus, all saline fossils are soft, and very soft; often even friable, brittle, and easily frangible; and these characters are termed *Saline Consistence*.