

It occurs massive, and in great masses.

It is dull, and feebly glimmering when small scales of mica are present.

The fracture is intermediate between uneven and coarse earthy.

It soils slightly.

It is very easily frangible.

It is sectile, and the streak is dull.

It is intermediate between friable and soft, but inclining more to the first.

It adheres strongly to the tongue.

It feels somewhat greasy.

It is rather heavy, bordering on light.

#### *Geognostic and Geographic Situations.*

It occurs in great beds in alluvial districts, when it sometimes contains remains of elephants, &c. ; also in flötz mountains, along with wacke and basalt, and in fissures, forming veins. It appears in general to be an alluvial deposit, only a comparatively small portion of it occurring in flötz rocks.

It is so very widely and generally distributed, that it is not necessary to specify any locality.

#### *Uses.*

The mud-houses we meet with in different countries, are built of loam. They are generally reared on a foundation of stone and lime, to secure them from damp. It is the practice to build them in spring, and allow them to dry during the summer: they are plastered with lime in autumn, in order to protect them from rain. The loam is mixed with straw or hair, to prevent its cracking. The most advantageous practice is to form the  
loam