

XV. SOAPSTONE FAMILY.

THIS Family contains the following species: Native Magnesia, Magnesite, Meerschäum, Bole, Sphragide, Fullers Earth, Steatite, and Figure stone.

1. Native Magnesia.

Native Magnesia, *Bruce*.

*Bruce* on Native Magnesia from New Jersey, American Mineralogical Journal, vol. i. p. 26.-30.

*External Characters.*

Its colour is snow-white, passing into greenish-white.

It occurs massive.

Its lustre is pearly.

The fracture is foliated, or radiated.

It is semi-transparent in the mass, transparent in single folia.

It is soft, and somewhat elastic.

It adheres slightly to the tongue.

Specific gravity, 2.13.

*Chemical Characters.*

Before the blowpipe, it becomes opaque and friable, and loses weight. It is soluble in the sulphuric, nitric, and muriatic acids.

*Constituent*