

hedron meet, an octahedron is formed,—a figure, however, which has been scarcely observed in the species.

The crystals are small and seldom middle-sized; usually heaped on one another, sometimes also superimposed.

Their surface is shining and splendid.

Internally it is usually glistening; sometimes, however, it passes into shining, and has a metallic lustre.

The fracture is coarse and small-grained uneven; sometimes it inclines to imperfect conchoidal, and such varieties have a blackish colour, the strongest lustre, and contain the greatest proportion of silver, and the least of copper.

The fragments are indeterminate angular, and rather blunt-edged.

It is more or less semi-hard.

It gives a reddish-brown streak: some varieties do not produce any alteration of colour*.

It is brittle.

It is easily frangible.

It is heavy.

Specific gravity, 4.594, *Wiedemann*. 4.8648, *Hauy*. 4.4460 to 4.560, *Bournon*.

Chemical Characters.

Before the blowpipe, it first decrepitates, and then melts into a greyish-coloured brittle metallic globule. During fusion it disengages a white arsenical vapour: to borax it communicates a yellowish colour inclining to red. Some varieties are difficult of fusion.

Constituent

* According to Count de Bournon, those varieties that afford a reddish-brown streak, may be presumed to contain a mixture of silver and antimony, generally combined together in the state of red silver-ore.