

pearly; the lateral planes, when not covered with a rough dull crust, are shining and vitreous.

The principal fracture is foliated, with a fourfold cleavage: the most distinct cleavage is that parallel with the terminal planes; the other three, which are parallel with the lateral planes, are less distinct: the cross fracture is uneven, passing into fine splintery.

Internally the lustre of the principal fracture is shining and pearly; the cross fracture is glimmering.

It occurs in straight lamellar distinct concretions.

It is translucent on the edges.

It is semi-hard.

Its streak is brownish-white.

It is brittle.

Specific gravity, 3.081.

#### *Chemical Characters.*

It is insoluble in water. It is soluble in muriatic acid, with exception of a small siliceous residuum. Before the blowpipe, it gives out vapours of oxygenated muriatic acid \*, and is converted into a magnetic oxide of iron †.

#### *Constituent Parts.*

It is Muriate of Iron, combined with a small portion of Silica.

#### *Geognostic*

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\* A small piece of this mineral will fill a whole room with the smell of oxygenated muriatic acid. Its name is borrowed from this property.

† By heating, the iron parts with a part of its oxygen to the muriatic acid, and converts it into oxygenated acid.